

Regent receives British delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday received a visiting delegation from the British Parliament and reviewed the current situation in the Middle East in general and the Israeli-occupied Arab territories in particular. The Regent also briefed the delegation members on the latest developments in the region and joint Jordanian-Palestinian moves for a just solution to the Palestinian problem. Earlier Tuesday, the British delegation met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Hazem Nuzleibeh who also briefed the delegation members on Jordan's stand towards the Middle East conflict and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian moves for peace.

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Israelis impose curfew in W. Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — The Israeli occupation authorities Tuesday imposed a curfew on the West Bank universities of Birzeit and Najah alleging that the measure was taken against possible resistance activities by students. News received from the West Bank said that students staged an anti-Israeli strike Tuesday. The occupation authorities also closed a school in the Jalazon refugee camp near the occupied city of Ramallah in retaliation to schoolchildren's stoning of Israeli settlers.

Ceremony held to mark Ramadan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Tuesday held a religious ceremony at Al Hussein Mosque to mark the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan. Among the speakers was Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayat, minister of awqaf, who made a speech underlining the need for Muslims to give alms (Zakat) to the poor during the Holy Month and to help bring about harmony among members of the public. He reviewed the meaning and the lessons of Ramadan throughout history, and the great Islamic conquests that took place during this month.

Sudanese premier arrives in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — Sudan's Prime Minister Al Oazouli Dafallah arrived in Bahrain from Kuwait Tuesday on the third leg of a Gulf tour, officials said. They said Mr. Dafallah, who previously visited Saudi Arabia, would deliver a message to the Emir, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa from Sudan's military leader General Abdul Rahman Swaroudah. Mr. Dafallah was expected to brief the Emir on the situation in Sudan since President Jaafar Numeiri was ousted on April 6, and was likely to leave here for Qatar or the United Arab Emirates either Tuesday night or early Wednesday, the officials said.

India adopts tough anti-terrorist bill

NEW DELHI (R) — The Upper House of the Indian parliament Tuesday approved a tough bill to tackle recent extremist activity which Law Minister Ashoke Sen described as linked to "foreign hands". It approved the terrorist and disruptive activities (prevention) bill after a six-hour debate. The bill, which lays down the death penalty for extremist acts that kill and gives government the right to tap telephones, open mail and search houses, was passed by the Lower House Monday.

Kuwait to consult parliament on any GCC security pact

KUWAIT (R) — Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah said Tuesday Kuwait would consult parliament before signing any internal security pact with its Gulf allies. He told the National Assembly Kuwait had proposed some changes to a draft accord drawn up to boost cooperation on internal security within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and these had been submitted to the GCC General Secretariat.

INSIDE

- * Palestine National Fund concludes meetings in Amman, page 2
- * Number of unemployed in Jordan reportedly rises to 27,000, page 3
- * Reagan under pressure to make 'Star Wars' concessions, page 4
- * London regains musical glory with four years of 'Cats', page 5
- * Holmes retains heavyweight title, page 6
- * U.S., Soviets to lift trade obstacle, page 7
- * Ortega concludes European tour, page 8

Amal, Palestinians fight fierce battle

Toll rises to 100 dead, 500 wounded

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Militiamen of the Shi'ite Amal movement and Palestinian fighters holding out against them in two Beirut camps were locked in fierce battles Tuesday.

Reports said an estimated 100 people had been killed and over 500 wounded since the fighting erupted Sunday night.

Grenade-throwing girls fought alongside the Palestinians in two Beirut refugee camps Tuesday after 40 hours of fierce battles. The militiamen appeared to have seized control of most of a third camp, except for three strongpoints where the Palestinians were still putting up stiff resistance.

Men, women and children fled the fighting as black-scarved gunmen of the Amal militia raked the Sabra and Shatila camps with fire from anti-aircraft guns and poured thousands of rifle rounds into Bourj Al Barajneh.

Reuter reporters saw militiamen wearing green headbands fire occasional bursts from heavy machine guns at Palestinian positions in Sabra and Shatila as the Palestinians fought back with rifles and rocket-propelled grenades.

"They are surrounding Shatila. Half of it has fallen," a student who fled the camp said, adding Amal had taken prisoners.

Amal fighters were seen from the edges of Sabra conducting house-to-house searches in the camp for fighters and weapons. At least two young men were seen being dragged out of one house and taken away by armed Lebanese.

Explosions and shooting in the air also marked dozens of funeral processions held in various other parts of west Beirut for the victims of Monday's fighting.

Amal leader Nabih Berri claimed his militiamen control Sabra and are closing in on Palestinian defenders in Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh.

He said that Syrian-backed Palestinian factions opposed to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat have closed ranks with Arafat loyalists to fight Amal.

Mr. Berri spoke at a news conference in west Beirut's Barbour district amid the sound of shellfire and grenade explosions from the fighting a few hundred metres away.

He said Amal lost 32 fighters killed and 130 wounded in Monday's fighting. Palestinian spokesmen have said they lost 22 men killed and 80 wounded by nightfall Monday.

The Amal officer at Bourj Al Barajneh said there were "several thousand" Palestinians fighting in the camps.

"They're all fighting together now," he said.

Amal claimed earlier that its men had overrun all the camps in its offensive aimed at preventing the PLO from rebuilding its power base in Lebanon after the organisation was forced out by the Israelis in 1982.

Palestinian spokesmen conceded Sabra had fallen. But one officer told the Associated Press by telephone from Bourj Al Barajneh: "We still hold Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh." He declined to be identified.

An officer of the Amal militia, standing in a bullet-scarred school on the edge of the Bourj Al Barajneh camp, said: "Everybody's fighting in there. Men, women, boys, even girls are throwing hand grenades."

The Amal fighters shrugged off suggestions they were having the worst of the fighting. They denied reports they had asked their Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia allies for help and said the Palestinians had provoked the fighting by killing Amal militiamen on Sunday.

PSP fighters ensured victory for Amal in Beirut last month when they intervened in a pitched battle between the Shi'ites and the Sunni Mourabitoun militia, traditionally sympathetic to Mr. Arafat.

Amal men denied the army was helping them in Bourj Al Barajneh, which borders a Shi'ite shantytown of the same name. A Reuter reporter saw some 20 soldiers at an Amal post near the camp.

"Amal is trying to push the Palestinians out and take their weapons," a Lebanese army officer near the entrance to Sabra and Shatila said. "We (the army) are here for security."

Roads to Beirut's international airport, cut off from the city by the fighting for much of Monday, were reopened and flights were operating normally, airport officials said.

Kuwait appealed Tuesday to Syria to intercede and halt the battles. A Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry spokesman said Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah telephoned Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam with the appeal for intervention.

Sheikh Sabah was quoted as urging Syrian intervention "so as to bar hostile forces from spreading sedition and dissent among the sons of the one Arab Nation."

"We appeal to the brothers in Syria to exert their good offices to spare the bloodshed and the lives of the innocent in this Holy Month (of Ramadan) and unify the ranks in face of the common enemy of the Arabs," Sheikh Sabah added in obvious allusion to Israel.

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabian radio called for an end to the fighting in order to foil "the plans of the Israeli enemy which is still committing aggressions against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples."

It said all that was happening inside the refugee camps only served "the Israeli enemy which seeks to liquidate once and for all the Palestinian presence in Lebanon."

The International Committee of Red Cross and Lebanese Red Cross meanwhile appealed for a halt in the fighting.

They said in a statement they were very concerned they had been unable to reach the wounded, adding: "It is urgent to allow ambulances to enter as quickly as possible to transport the sick and wounded, and to respect the Red Cross emblem and personnel."

Palestinian sources told the Associated Press many of their casualties bled to death Monday because medical teams could not reach them in the encircled camps.

1,150 gain freedom from Israeli jails in swap deal

AMMAN (Agencies) — One thousand and one hundred and fifty Palestinians and pro-Palestinians in Israeli prisons won their freedom Monday night in exchange for the release of three Israeli soldiers captured during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

The 394 of the Palestinian prisoners released by Israel in Geneva arrived in Tripoli on Tuesday, Libya's official news agency reported.

Under the exchange, worked out with the aid of the International Committee of Red Cross, the prisoners were first taken to Geneva, Switzerland. Israel agreed to free 1,150 Arab prisoners, among them the 394, to win the release of the three Israelis.

JANA, the news agency, said the Palestinians were welcomed at Tripoli's airport by "huge masses."

The three Israelis were the last of the soldiers in Arab hands since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon and had been taken captive by the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

JANA reported that an official of the command, Fadi Sharoura, accompanied the Palestinians from Geneva to Tripoli.

According to JANA, Mr. Sharoura said among the "most important Palestinian personalities" released in the swap was Kozu Okamoto, the sole survivor of a three-man Japanese Red Army suicide squad that machine-gunned 25 people in the 1972 Tel

airport attacks (See page 2). Another "important" prisoner release Monday was identified as Ziad Abu Ein, 26, who was extradited from the United States to Israel to be tried for an alleged market bombing in which two Israelis were killed. (See page 2).

Israel freed 1,150 prisoners during the day-long operation — 394 in Geneva, 605 in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and 151 on the border with Syria.

The three Israeli soldiers returned home at dawn to a welcome from relatives at an air force base in central Israel.

In Washington, President Ronald Reagan's administration on Monday distanced itself from the prisoner exchange, saying Israel had not consulted with the United States about the decision.

State Department spokesman Bernard said the swap had no bearing on the U.S. refusal to pressure Kuwait to free 17 men convicted of bombing the U.S. and French embassies in the face of Beirut threats that otherwise American and French hostages seized there face "catastrophic" consequences.

Kalbfied repeated the U.S. policy of not acceding to extremist groups. "What Israel has decided to do is completely separate" from the U.S. hostages, Kalbfied said.

In Vienna, former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, initiator of the prisoner exchange, Tuesday called off a trip to Israel because of fears of trouble there over the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Hebron, long a flashpoint of Jewish-Palestinian hostilities, settlers opened fire late Monday night on Palestinians who danced joyously in the street when a group of local men arrived home from Israeli prisons.

The settlers were led by militant Rabbi Moshe Levinger, leader of the Jews who have set up a series of tiny enclaves in the heart of Hebron, a city of 40,000 Palestinians. Firing his semi-automatic rifle and shouting "clear out the Arabs," Levinger rushed at the Palestinian crowd but was stopped by Israeli soldiers. No injuries were reported, and the crowd soon dispersed.



His Majesty King Hussein embraces Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak upon his departure from Cairo for London on Tuesday (AP wirephoto)

Sweden supports Jordan-PLO moves for peace, envoy says

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A high-ranking Swedish official Tuesday described the current political situation in the Middle East as "critical" and stressed that his country is in favour of all political initiatives which push forward all "prospects of peace" in the area.

Bernt Carlsson, a special envoy of Swedish Prime Minister, Olof Palme, said he did not bring any new messages or plans to the area, but Sweden would like to understand more about the region's political development, since the Middle East, in terms of international politics, is the "most important region in the world".

During his two-day visit here, Mr. Carlsson met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials.

He left Tuesday for Israel, having also visited Syria, Lebanon, the Sultanate of Oman, Tunisia and North and South Yemen in a fact-finding tour of the Middle

East. After his visit to Israel, the Swedish envoy will visit Egypt and Gulf Arab states.

"Sweden has a neutral international policy, and therefore, it does not take any biased steps towards political events that are rapidly developing in the area," Mr. Carlsson told the Jordan Times. "The Middle East conflict should be solved by its own people."

Sweden, he said, fully supports His Majesty King Hussein's peace initiatives and the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO on joint action to reach a peaceful settlement to the Palestine problem.

Sweden supports the Jordan-PLO call for an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, Mr. Carlsson said.

The U.S. and Israel persistently oppose an international conference or any Soviet participation in Middle East diplomacy. The U.S. also refuses to deal with the

PLO before it explicitly recognises Israel's right to exist.

Mr. Carlsson said Sweden believes that the PLO must accept the state of Israel and its existence, since Israel is a "fact in world politics". However, Israel should also recognise and should accept the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, Mr. Carlsson said.

"A solution which will give the Palestinians a state of their own should be found," he said.

Mr. Carlsson welcomed "any steps towards mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO" despite the fact that Sweden was among the first countries which recognised Israel and its right to exist as a state within secure boundaries in 1948.

Sweden also has friendly relations with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Mr. Carlsson said, adding that during his visit to Syria he met with dissidents in the Fateh commando group and leaders of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

(Continued on page 2)

King, Queen arrive in London

LONDON (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived here Tuesday for a visit during which the King will meet senior British officials before leaving for Washington for talks with U.S. President Reagan.

The King and Queen arrived here after a 34-hour visit to Egypt. During his stay in Cairo, the King, who is accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, held talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

King Hussein held a first round of talks with Mr. Mubarak on Monday immediately after his arrival. On Tuesday the two leaders held a round of private talks before being joined by aides.

According to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, the talks centered on developments in the Middle East in the light of the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordanian-Palestinian joint moves on the Arab and international levels, and also on the outcome of talks held between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Egyptian and Jordanian officials.

The King and Mr. Mubarak reviewed topics the King will take up in Washington with President Reagan and American administration officials aimed at reaching a common ground for achieving a just and comprehensive Middle East settlement. Petra said.

It said that the two leaders exchanged views on developments in the Arab region and reviewed bilateral relations.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Mr. Rifai, Mr. Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd, and Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Hussein Hammami.

The Egyptian side to the talks included Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, Foreign Minister Ismat Abdul Meguid, President Mubarak's political advisor Osama Al Baz, and Deputy Prime Minister Mustafa Kamal Hilmi.

The Egyptian press Tuesday paid tribute to King Hussein's visit to Cairo and said the talks were in the course of consultations between the two countries on Middle East affairs.

Cairo newspapers said that if Israel's position was not encouraging at the moment, then Washington should bear responsibility for the task of establishing peace because it is a strong ally of Israel. The newspapers urged the American administration to open a dialogue with the Palestinian people in a drive to reach a settlement.

The King, who has described current efforts as a "last chance for peace," told reporters Tuesday his talks with Mr. Mubarak were excellent. It was their seventh round of talks since Jordan restored diplomatic ties with Egypt last September.

Egyptian officials said a major topic was Palestinian representation in reactivated peace talks. Mr. Mubarak has proposed a preliminary dialogue between the United States and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to be followed by broader peace negotiations including Israel and then an international conference to sanction any agreement reached.

Who should represent the Palestinians remains unresolved despite recent trips to the Middle East by Mr. Shultz and Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy.

The U.S. refuses to talk to the PLO unless it recognises Israel and therefore rules out a direct PLO role in the called for delegation.

The PLO, recognised by Arab states as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, insists on taking part in the talks.

King Hussein met Mr. Shultz in Jordan earlier this month, while Mr. Mubarak visited Washington in March to urge the Reagan administration to open a dialogue with a Jordanian-Palestinian team.

Israelis ready for final pullout

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli soldiers have dismantled eight positions on their "front line" in east Lebanon and pulled back four kilometres in advance of their final withdrawal from Lebanon, reports reaching Beirut said Tuesday.

The reports said the withdrawal from the small hamlets north of the village of Mimes, 20 kilometres from the Israeli border, began four days ago and was completed at dawn Tuesday.

Israel has said it will complete its pullback to its northern border by early June, ending a three-year occupation of South Lebanon.

The Israeli-backed South Lebanon army distributed leaflets to Irish peacekeeping soldiers in South Lebanon, warning the U.N. troops against obstructing their raids on Lebanese villages.

The 5,600-strong United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has been in Lebanon since 1978 when it was sent here to oversee Israel's pullback from Lebanon following its first invasion of the country. Israeli-held territory overlaps UNIFIL's zone.

The Irish troops have repeatedly tried to block raids by Israeli soldiers and SLA militiamen into their areas.

Big welcome greets Gandhi in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi received a lavish official welcome when he arrived in Moscow Tuesday for a visit expected to reaffirm Delhi's strong ties with the Soviet Union.

Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov, Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and 9 other senior Kremlin officials and ministers turned out at Sheremetievo airport to greet Mr. Gandhi, making his first official visit abroad since taking office last October.

Cheering crowds waved Indian flags along the route from the airport and troops stood guard in the city centre as he was driven into the Kremlin to meet Communist Party chief Mikhail Gorbachev before attending a banquet.

The red carpet welcome, of the kind the Kremlin used to give Mr. Gandhi's late mother Indira, was seen by diplomats as a sign of Soviet determination to maintain the links it has forged with Delhi over the past two decades.

Mr. Gandhi has proclaimed his commitment to maintaining the warm relationship, characterised by close economic and military ties, but he has also begun to improve relations with Washington.

He is due to visit the U.S. capital after a trip to France next

Freed PoWs to continue fight against Israelis

QUNEITRA, Golan Heights (Agencies) — Bearded but with shaven heads, the smiling prisoners vowed to continue their fight against Israel as they sang revolutionary songs and flashed victory signs on regaining their freedom at this divided town.

The prisoners, 103 Lebanese and 48 Palestinians, were among 1,150 detainees freed by Israel Monday in exchange for three Israeli soldiers held by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC). Others were freed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and in Geneva.

Most of the Lebanese said they were members of the Shiite militia Amal or the pro-Iranian fundamentalist "Hizbollah" (Party of God) Organisation. The Palestinians were commando fighters also captured by Israel in Lebanon.

The men, wearing red or blue shirts and white trousers, were former prisoners of Israel's Ansar detention camp in South Lebanon. They were taken to Israel when it evacuated the camp on April 3 as part of its withdrawal from Lebanon.

They told reporters they would continue the fight against Israel. The PFLP-GC was to take them by car to Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley, where the Lebanese were to be handed to their own groups at a special ceremony.

The prisoners were freed in a no man's land patrolled by United Nations peacekeeping troops, taken to the Syrian side in Red Cross buses and transferred to Syrian buses after their names were checked against lists prepared by PFLP-GC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The handover was completed at midnight Monday night (2100 GMT).

The freed prisoners were greeted by crowds of Palestinians and Syrian residents and welcomed by Khaled Al Fahoum, former spe-

aker of the Palestine National Council, and leaders of the Damascus-based Palestine National Salvation Front.

PFLP-GC Assistant Secretary-General Talal Naji told reporters the exchange was one of the most important in the history of the Palestinian revolution.

"The Zionist enemy gave in to the terms of our front and agreed to all its requests under which 1,151 fighters were released for three Israeli prisoners, including 19 who had been sentenced to life imprisonment," he said. "In addition, all convicted and detained women and girls were released."

The PFLP-GC and other factions "will spare no effort in the future to secure the release of the remaining prisoners in Israeli jails, and will not lack the means of achieving this," he said.

In Israel Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned Tuesday that Palestinian commandos released in the occupied West Bank in exchange for three Israeli soldiers could be re-arrested if commandos try to seize more Israeli troops.

"If any one of the terrorist organisations will consider it to be the easy way... I will not hesitate to recommend to the government of Israel to detain all those who were released who remain in the areas under our control," Mr. Rabin told a news conference.

"I warn terrorist organisations to beware about such action in the future," he said.

The release has prompted Israeli settlers and right-wing politicians to demand the release of Jewish settlers charged with terror attacks against Arabs in the West Bank.

The supreme court ruled Tuesday that members of what is

known as "the Jewish Underground", in custody for a year, should be held for two months, court officials said.

At the news conference, Mr. Rabin indicated he would oppose releasing the men. "The government is the only body that is authorised to decide what to do against terror," he said.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who heads the Likud Bloc in Prime Minister Shimon Peres' multi-party government, said Monday that they should be released.

"It is inconceivable that terrorists jailed in Israel should go free while those who tried to act against them sit in prison," Mr. Shamir told Likud members.

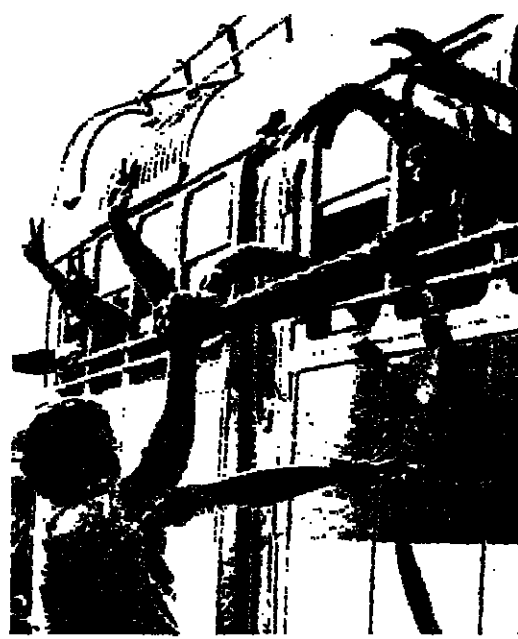
The alleged members of the Jewish Underground have admitted to anti-Palestinian attacks between 1980 and 1984. The suspects, most of whom are settlers in the occupied West Bank, contend that they acted in self-defence after the Israeli government "failed to take tough measures to protect them from Palestinian violence."

Mr. Shamir is willing to endanger his government partnership with Mr. Peres over the issue Israel TV quoted Likud sources as saying.

Relations between Likud and Mr. Peres' rival Labour party have periodically reached crisis proportions over political disagreements since the two parties formed their government in September to overcome the country's economic crisis.

Mr. Peres' office refused comment on Mr. Shamir's demand, the television said. It quoted sources close to the prime minister as saying that the government could not interfere with matters pending before the courts.

The only official empowered to grant pardons is the president, who does so on the recommendation of the justice minister.



(Left) A bus carries released Palestinian prisoners through Nablus to their homes in various parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. (Right) Japanese



prisoner Kozo Okamoto (climbing steps) and other released prisoners board a plane to fly them out of Israel Monday night (AP wirephoto)

Ziad Abu Ein vows to fight on

RAMALLAH, West Bank (R) — A Palestinian commando convicted by an Israeli court of killing two Israeli youths has returned home as part of a prisoner exchange and has vowed to continue fighting for the Palestinian cause.

Ziad Abu Ein, 25, the only Palestinian extradited by the United States to Israel, made a victory sign with his fingers, hugged his brother and proclaimed:

"Today is the freeing of the prisoners. Tomorrow is the freeing of all of Palestine."

In 1979, Abu Ein was charged with planting a bomb that killed two youths in Tiberias but he escaped capture by going first to Amman and then to the United States.

After a few months in Chicago, he was arrested by federal agents and imprisoned until his extradition in December, 1982. He was due to be freed in a prisoner exchange in November, 1983, but the Israelis held him back at the last minute.

As his family crowded round him, Abu Ein told reporters: "It is not true that I killed two children. I am innocent."

He added: "I will help my people towards freedom by anything that can help solve our problem. I'm not afraid if they (the Israelis) kill me or kidnap me as before."

Abu Ein was first arrested in 1977, accused of painting anti-Israel slogans on the walls of Ramallah.

His family owns an aluminium factory. They have lived in Ramallah since 1948, when their village was destroyed in the war that led to Israel's establishment.

"I have a feeling of victory," he said. "I love my land and I love my people."

Okamoto carried shoulder-high

In Tripoli, Libya Japanese commando Kozo Okamoto, freed by Israel Monday from a life sentence for the 1972 Lod Airport attack, was carried shoulder-high by frenzied Libyan crowds on his arrival in Tripoli.

Okamoto, 37, is sole survivor of a three-man Japanese commando squad that killed 25 people with machinegun fire at Lod Airport.

He was among 1,150 mostly Palestinian and Lebanese commandos released by Israel in exchange for three Israeli soldiers held by a radical Palestinian group.

A plane carrying 394 prisoners exchanged in Geneva was greeted here Monday night by frenzied crowds carrying olive branches, eyewitnesses reported.

Ahmad Jibril, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) which negotiated the prisoner exchange through the International Red Cross, was on hand and kissed every one of the freed prisoners.

Eyewitnesses said Jibril and Okamoto, a former member of the Japanese Red Army guerrilla group, were hoisted up and carried shoulder-high through the crowd.

Japan regrets release

Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe said in Tokyo Okamoto's release was regrettable because it might encourage "international terrorism."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Japanese police were obtaining a warrant for his arrest and

would put him on a wanted list with the international police organisation, Interpol.

The spokesman quoted an official of the Japanese embassy in Tel Aviv as saying he had gained the impression that Okamoto was "mentally unstable" during a meeting with the commando a few days before his release.

Israel had 'no choice'

Meanwhile a senior Israeli official told the Japanese ambassador Tuesday that Israel had no choice but to free Okamoto as part of the prisoner exchange and expressed hope the move would not affect relations with the Tokyo government.

A Foreign Ministry statement said David Kimche, director-general of the Foreign Ministry, made the remarks during a 45-minute meeting here with Ambassador Shozo Kadota.

In Tokyo, Japanese officials said Kadota sought the meeting to express regret over the release of Okamoto.

The ministry statement quoted Mr. Kimche as telling the Japanese envoy Israel regretted that the release of Okamoto had caused "concern and unease in Tokyo."

"This was certainly not Israel's intention, and we will do our best to continue strengthening relations between our two countries," Mr. Kimche was quoted as saying.

The statement said Mr. Kimche told Mr. Kadota that Israel "had no choice, in light of its humanitarian efforts, but to bring about the release of its three prisoners but to release Kozo Okamoto."

Palestine National Fund ends meetings in Amman

By Hamadeh Fara'neh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Palestine National Fund (PNF) has ended three days of meetings at the Palestine National Council (PNC) headquarters.

This is the first meeting of the fund's board after its new formation. All members who boycotted the last PNC meeting in Amman in 1984 had their membership terminated.

Among those is former PNC Speaker Khalid Al Fahoum, lawyer Yasser Amr from Jordan, Sami Attari from Syria and PNF

ex-deputy chairman Adnan Derbas who resides in Abu Dhabi. Before the restructuring of the PNF, Dr. Hanna Nasir was its head.

Mr. Al Ghusein told the Jordan Times that the board discussed a number of urgent issues.

They included, he said, the collection of Palestinian tax, budget estimates for 85-86, administrative staff and staff regulations, auditing of PLO's offices accounts, the PLO's investment projects and investment research as well as the economic situation in the occupied territories.

Kreisky cancels trip after assassination warning

VIENNA (AP) — Former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, who helped negotiate a swap of Israeli and Palestinian prisoners, said Tuesday he cancelled a trip to Israel after friends warned of a possible assassination attempt.

Dr. Kreisky had been scheduled to leave Tuesday on an eight-day tour that would include speaking engagements at universities in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem as well as a private meeting with Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

He said he had also planned meetings in the West Bank and Gaza with "Palestinian friends."

"It's significant for the situation in Israel that my friends believed my life would be in danger," he said.

Dr. Kreisky asserted that there had been a "dramatic radicalisation of public life in Israel, which leads to such a situation."

Dr. Kreisky, a non-practising Jew, had close ties to Arab leaders during his 13 years in office and frequently criticised Israel. He figured in the exchange of three Israeli soldiers for 1,150 captured Palestinians that was concluded Monday.

Noting Israeli accusations that "terrorists" were among the released Palestinians, he said was not involved with whom would be exchanged but dealt only with numbers in the swap.

"You can't blame me for being happy about the number of Palestinians that have been released," he said.

Sweden supports joint moves

(Continued from page 1)

who are opposed to Mr. Arafat's leadership of the PLO.

"Differences within the PLO obviously weaken the Palestinian cause and this threatens all PLO organisations which have to work from exile," Mr. Carlsson said.

Asked whether Sweden was ready to contribute to efforts aimed at pushing peace negotiations in the area, Mr. Carlsson said his country "will remain outside the procedures of negotiations since such negotiations are things which the PLO and all parties involved have to pursue."

Mr. Carlsson expressed Sweden's hope in King Hussein's peace initiatives and his coming visit to Washington "since both the PLO and Jordan have made it clear that now is the precise time for solving the Palestinian problem."

However, he continued, "any future action depends on the King's success in convincing the U.S."

Mr. Carlsson expressed hope that his fact-finding mission to the Middle East will help Sweden to realise the "immense complexity of the situation" in the Middle East. "But since there is an enormous responsibility on the shoulders of Middle East leaders," Mr. Carlsson said, he will not "complicate their work by any form of advice."

During his two-day visit to Amman, Mr. Carlsson discussed Middle East political issues and the Palestine problem with the Regent, Mr. Rifai, Mr. Masri and Palestinian National Council Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Saeh. Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Taber Kan'an, Fateh Central Committee member Hani Al Hassan and with the Egyptian, U.S. and Spanish ambassadors to Jordan.

In reply to a question on the Lebanese situation, the Swedish envoy said his country "fully supports the independence and freedom of Lebanon as well as its integrity."

Mr. Palme was also given a chance to mediate in the Iran-Iraq war by the U.N. Secretary General, yet Sweden "does not side with any party involved in the war and is only pursuing peace efforts," Mr. Carlsson said.

Mr. Carlsson, who has visited Jordan for the first time in 1976 as part of an international delegation which was led by former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. Mr. Carlsson represented the Swedish Socialist Democratic Party in the delegation.

His second visit to Jordan was in 1982, in his capacity as the general secretary of the Socialist International. The delegation was led by Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares.

Lugar to visit Middle East

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — U.S. Senator Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, will begin a three-day visit to Israel Saturday and also make stops in Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco.

Sen. Lugar announced the trip Tuesday night in a speech at the 14th annual dinner of the Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis and it was confirmed Monday by Mark Helmke, an aide to the Republican senator. "The senator considers the Middle East vital to American foreign policy," Mr. Helmke said. "He'll be meeting with government leaders to discuss the area's economic problems, military situation and terrorism, which is a major concern in that area and in this country."

Kach to form 'vigilante patrols' in E. Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Warnings have been sounded that plans by the extreme right wing Israeli Kach Movement to establish vigilante patrols in occupied East Jerusalem will result in a wave of violence.

Kach, which openly advocates the expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, has announced the formation of a special armed and uniformed unit which will patrol East Jerusalem "in order to maintain order."

Kach spokesman Jad Soterman said that the unit will "roam the streets of the Old City day and night," and that it would "use force if we have to."

The unit was ostensibly formed in response to the mugging of an Israeli man in East Jerusalem on 17th April. Later, Israeli police arrested a Palestinian youth in connection with the incident.

Kach's vigilante plans, however, are seen as being motivated primarily by the group's desire to intimidate Palestinians.

The Palestinian daily Al Fajr quoted officials at Jerusalem's Israeli-run municipality as describing the Kach scheme as "bogus." They added, however, that developments would be monitored closely. Amir Hashim, Arab affairs adviser at the municipality, said that he would urge "police authorities to take measures against illegal actions by groups such as Kach."

Fayez Barakat, head of Jerusalem's Chamber of Commerce, warned: "If Kach members carry out their plans, they and the Israeli authorities will be responsible for the outcome."

Kahane urges not to back anti-apartheid moves

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Jewish Defence League founder Rabbi Meir Kahane says Jews should not support anti-apartheid moves because South Africa's black majority may turn against Israel.

"I'm not about to protest on behalf of anyone, no matter how

just the cause is, when I know as soon as he comes to power he'll do away with my state," Kahane said at a news conference Monday.

Kahane is on a four-city tour to raise funds for his Kach Party, which sent him to Israel's parliament on a platform seeking the immediate expulsion of all Arabs from Israel.

If the present birthrate continues, Arabs will constitute a majority in Israel within 20 years, he said.

"I am not about to lose my country in any way to anybody," he said. "I am for a democratic state — for Jews."

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

<div>JORDAN TELEVISION</div> <div>Tel: 77311-19</div> <div>MAIN CHANNEL</div> <div>15:00 Koran</div> <div>15:20 Cartoons</div> <div>15:25 Children Programmes</div> <div>15:50 Rel.</div> <div>16:05 Cartoons</div> <div>16:25 News Programmes</div> <div>16:35 Arabic Series</div> <div>17:45 Religious Programme</div> <div>19:25 Poetry</div> <div>20:00 News in Arabic</div> <div>20:30 News Programme</div> <div>20:45 Programme Review</div> <div>21:00 Arabic Series</div> <div>21:50 Folklore Series</div> <div>22:25 Arabic Series</div> <div>23:00 News in Arabic</div> <div>23:10 Arabic Series</div> <div>24:00 Arabic Series</div> <div>FOREIGN CHANNEL</div> <div>18:00 French Programme: "Des chiffres et des lettres"</div> <div>18:10 Cartoon</div> <div>19:00 News in French</div> <div>19:15 Aujourd'hui en France</div> <div>19:30 News in Hebrew</div> <div>20:00 News in Arabic</div> <div>20:30 Ever Decreasing Circles</div> <div>21:10 Hand and Eye</div> <div>22:00 News in English</div> <div>22:30 Play of the Week: "Edwin"</div> <div>RADIO JORDAN</div> <div>855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM</div> <div>& Parity on 95.60 KHz. SW</div> <div>Tel: 77411-19</div> <div>07:00 Light Music</div> <div>07:30 Newsdesk</div> <div>08:00 Morning show</div> <div>10:00 News Summary</div> <div>11:00 Morning Show Contd.</div> <div>11:30 News Summary</div> <div>12:00 Pop Session Contd.</div> <div>12:05 Pop Session Contd.</div> <div>13:00 News Summary</div> <div>13:05 Pop Session</div> <div>14:00 News Bulletin</div> <div>14:10 Instrumentals</div> <div>14:15 The Young Sound</div> <div>15:00 Concert Hour</div> <div>16:00 News Summary</div> <div>16:05 Instrumentals</div> <div>16:30 Old Favourites</div> <div>17:30 Jordan Weekly</div> <div>18:00 News Summary</div> <div>18:05 Over a Cup of Tea</div> <div>18:30 Arabic Music</div> <div>19:00 News Desk</div> <div>19:30 Date with a Star</div>	<div>20:00 Evening Show</div> <div>21:00 News Summary</div> <div>21:05 Evening Show Contd.</div> <div>21:55 News Summary</div> <div>22:00 Evening Show Continued</div> <div>23:00 News Summary</div> <div>23:05 Evening Show continued</div> <div>23:57 News Headlines</div> <div>24:00 Close Down</div> <div>BBC WORLD SERVICE</div> <div>639, 720, 1413 KHz</div> <div>07:00 Newscast 07:30 Waveguide</div> <div>07:45 Financial News 07:55 Reflections</div> <div>08:00 World Fashion show 8:40 Hours</div> <div>08:50 Summary 08:50 What's New</div> <div>09:45 The World Today 09:50 Newsdesk</div> <div>09:50 Omnibus 19:00 World</div> <div>News 16:00 24 Hours News Summary</div> <div>16:30 Report on Religion 18:45 That's Trid</div> <div>11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections</div> <div>11:15 International Soccer Special</div> <div>11:30 Mainstream 12:00 World</div> <div>News 12:09 British Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial</div> <div>News 12:40 Look Ahead 12:45 It's All Been Done Before 13:00 News Summary</div> <div>Cathedral Heritage 13:30 My Music 14:00 World News 14:09 News</div> <div>About Britain 14:15 Hanger 14:30 Meridian 15:00 Rad: Newscast 15:15</div> <div>James Notebook 15:20 News</div> <div>World 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:09 24 Hours: News</div> <div>Summary 16:30 British String 17:00 News Summary: Outlook 17:45 Report</div> <div>on Religion 18:00 News Newscast</div> <div>18:15 The Pleasures of Seeking 18:30 Two Cheers for April 19:00 World</div> <div>News 19:09 Commentary 19:15 Rock</div> <div>19:45 The World Today 19:57 World</div> <div>News 20:00 Monitor 20:15 Monitor 20:35 Waveguide 20:45 Sports</div> <div>Round-up</div> <div>VOICE OF AMERICA</div> <div>MTW 1280 & SW 7200, 9065, 11740,</div> <div>11925 and 15210 KHz</div> <div>07:00 News 07:10 Newscast 07:30 VOA</div> <div>Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newscast</div> <div>08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10</div> <div>Newscast 09:30 VOA Morning/News</div> <div>Summary 10:00 News 10:10 Newscast</div> <div>10:30 Music USA 10:50 News 19:10</div> <div>Focus 19:30 Special English News & Features</div> <div>20:00 News 20:10 Newscast</div> <div>20:30 Magazine Show 21:00 News</div> <div>17:10 Focus 21:30 Special English</div> <div>News Summary 22:00 News 22:10</div> <div>Newscast America 22:30 Music USA</div> <div>23:00 News & Editorial 23:15 Music</div> <div>USA Jazz 24:00 News 08:10 World</div> <div>Report.</div>	<div>TODAY'S EVENTS</div> <div>EXHIBITIONS</div> <div>An exhibition on famous German composers (Heinrich Schütz, Johann Bach, George Handel) at the Goethe Institute.</div> <div>"Visages de la Provence" at the French Cultural Centre.</div> <div>The fourth exhibition of Turkish products and Turkish fashion show at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.</div> <div>VIDEO</div> <div>"Un Jardin à Yafa" at 4:00 at the French Cultural Centre.</div> <div>CULTURAL CENTRES</div> <div>Royal Cultural Centre. Tel: 6610267</div> <div>American Centre. 644371</div> <div>British Council. 6361478</div> <div>French Cultural Centre. 637009</div> <div>Goethe Institute. 641993</div> <div>Soviet Cultural Centre. 644203</div> <div>Spanish Cultural Centre. 634049</div> <div>Turkish Cultural Centre. 639777</div> <div>Haya Arts Centre. 665195</div> <div>Husseini Youth City. 6671816</div> <div>Y.W.C.A. 664251</div> <div>Amman Municipal Library. 637111</div> <div>University of Jordan Library. 843555</div> <div>MUSEUMS</div> <div>Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes from 1000 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631760.</div> <div>Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Murat-zah, Jabal Lweibdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.</div> <div>CONCERTE</div> <div>03:59 Fajr</div> <div>05:34 (Sunnah) Duha</div> <div>12:32 Dhuhur</div> <div>16:14 'Asr</div> <div>19:32 Maghrib</div> <div>21:57 'Isha</div> <div>SERVICE CLUBS</div> <div>Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.</div> <div>Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.</div> <div>Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.</div> <div>Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.</div> <div>Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 816334, 817534.</div> <div>CHURCHES</div> <div>St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624990.</div> <div>St. George of the Amerites (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lweibdeh, 637440.</div> <div>De la Saie Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 617157.</div> <div>Orthodox of the Amerites (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 623541.</div> <div>Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 623583.</div> <div>Soviet Catholic Church Amman, 642033.</div> <div>Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 637131.</div> <div>Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.</div> <div>St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 777151.</div> <div>Assamen International Church (denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeikani, 816334.</div> <div>Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Sami), Tel. 811255.</div> <div>PRAYER TIMES</div> <div>03:59 Fajr</div> <div>05:34 (Sunnah) Duha</div> <div>12:32 Dhuhur</div> <div>16:14 'Asr</div> <div>19:32 Maghrib</div> <div>21:57 'Isha</div>	<div>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</div> <div>This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 5320-5, where it should always be verified.</div> <div>ARRIVALS</div> <div>06:35 Cairo (MS)</div> <div>08:20 Karachi (PK)</div> <div>09:30 Sana'a (Y)</div> <div>10:30 Agaba (RJ)</div> <div>10:45 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>10:45 Kuwait (RJ)</div> <div>10:45 Jeddah (RJ)</div> <div>11:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)</div> <div>11:20 Beirut (RJ, MEA)</div> <div>12:15 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GA)</div> <div>14:00 Kuwait (RJ)</div> <div>15:10 Jeddah (SV)</div> <div>18:10 Paris, Damascus (TA)</div> <div>18:30 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)</div> <div>18:40 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna</div> <div>18:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)</div> <div>19:00 Bucharest, Istanbul (RJ)</div> <div>19:00 Rome (RJ)</div> <div>19:30 Bangkok (RJ)</div> <div>19:30 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>20:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)</div> <div>20:30 Frankfurt, Damascus (LJ)</div> <div>20:55 Rome (RJ)</div> <div>21:30 Cairo, Damascus (TY)</div> <div>02:10 Baghdad (RJ)</div> <div>03:15 Belgrade, Istanbul (GU)</div> <div>DEPARTURES</div> <div>06:30 Istanbul, Amsterdam (KLM)</div> <div>06:50 Damascus, Frankfurt (LJ)</div> <div>07:20 Beirut (RJ, MEA)</div> <div>08:00 Athens (GA)</div> <div>08:15 Agaba (RJ)</div> <div>08:30 Sana'a (Y)</div> <div>09:00 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)</div> <div>09:00 Damascus, Rome (Alitalia)</div> <div>09:30 Athens, Rome (PK)</div> <div>12:05 Larnaca, Zurich (SR)</div> <div>13:00 Belgrade, London (RJ)</div> <div>14:30 Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GA)</div> <div>15:30 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>15:40 Kuwait (RJ)</div> <div>16:40 Jeddah (SV)</div> <div>20:30 Kuwait (RJ)</div> <div>20:30 Sana'a (Y)</div> <div>20:40 Dhahran (RJ)</div> <div>21:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)</div> <div>21:15 Jeddah (RJ)</div> <div>21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)</div> <div>21:55 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>21:55 Karachi (PK)</div> <div>22:00 Sana'a (TY)</div> <div>22:10 Baghdad (RJ)</div> <div>04:15 Belgrade (GU)</div> <div>MARITIME TRAFFIC</div> <div>Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:</div> <div>— Perna</div> <div>— Abalimiah</div> <div>— Golden Auckland</div> <div>— Rami</div> <div>— Viva One</div> <div>— Nedlloyd Rochester</div> <div>Amin Kassar and Sons Company, Tel: 623254-9 at your service.</div> <div>MONEY EXCHANGE</div> <div>Monday rates</div> <div>Local sell/buy rates in Jds</div> <div>Belgian franc 65/ 65.5</div> <div>Dutch guilder 116.9/ 117.8</div> <div>Egyptian guinea 280/ 284</div> <div>French franc 45.3/ 45.6</div> <div>Iraqi dinar 398/ 403</div> <div>Italian lire (for 100) 20.4/ 20.7</div> <div>Japanese yen (for 100) 160.1/ 161.4</div> <div>Kuwaiti dinar 132.4/ 133.6</div> <div>Lebanese lira 24.6/ 25.6</div> <div>Omani rial 115.5/ 116.3</div> <div>Qatari rial 109.1/ 109.8</div> <div>Saudi riyal 110.3/ 111.2</div> <div>Swiss franc 45.2/ 45.6</div> <div>UAE dirham 36.6/ 37</div> <div>U.S. dollar 108.5/ 109.3</div> <div>U.S. sterling pound 515.4/ 519.5</div> <div>U.S. dollar 39.5/ 40.2</div> <div>W. German mark 132.2/ 133.3</div> <div>WEATHER</div> <div>Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.</div> <div>It will be fair, with medium and high clouds. Winds will be northwesterly to moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.</div> <div>Amman 16/ 28</div> <div>Agaba 20/ 38</div> <div>Deserts 15/ 32</div> <div>Jordan Valley 18/ 35</div> <div>Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27.7, Agaba 37.5.</div> <div>Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Agaba 21 per cent.</div>	<div>EMERGENCIES</div> <div>Amman Governorate 891228</div> <div>Amman Civil Defence 198-198</div> <div>Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 273131</div> <div>Civil Defence Quesneish 770733</div> <div>Ambulance 193, 775111</div> <div>Amman downtown fire grade 198</div> <div>First aid 638314</div> <div>Blood bank 778303</div> <div>Civil Defence rescue 661111</div> <div>Fire headquarters 6220903</div> <div>Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777</div> <div>Police headquarters 639141</div> <div>Traffic police 8963901</div> <div>Electric power Co. 6363814, 624881</div> <div>Municipal water complaints 7711256</div> <div>Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 533060</div> <div>NIGHT DUTY</div> <div>AMMAN:</div> <div>Dr. Tayseer Sa'adi 777636</div> <div>Dr. Abbas Hakeem 891256</div> <div>Dentist Shebli Ammani 660773</div> <div>Al-Salam pharmacy 636730</div> <div>Mishri pharmacy 770910</div> <div>Firas pharmacy 661912</div> <div>Jihad pharmacy 771547</div> <div>TAKIS:</div> <div>Neil taxi 639655</div> <div>Grand Palace taxi 667079</div> <div>Medical City taxi 813813</div> <div>Faisal taxi 623251</div> <div>Rashed taxi 622013</div> <div>Talat taxi 625021</div> <div>SALT:</div> <div>Dr. Bashar Rashdan (—)</div> <div>IRBID:</div> <div>Dr. Mohammad Share' 273680</div> <div>Dentist Mahmoud Abu Salem 245060</div> <div>Jordan pharmacy 244595</div> <div>ZARQA:</div> <div>Dr. Yusef Abu Sa'ad (—)</div> <div>Dentist Nadeem Safarini 982929</div> <div>Jeyoush pharmacy (—)</div> <div>GENERAL</div> <div>Jordan Television 77311/19</div> <div>Radio Jordan 77411/19</div> <div>Ministry of Tourism 642311</div> <div>Hotel complaints 666412</div> <div>Price complaints 661776</div> <div>Telephone Information 12</div> <div>Jordan and Middle East calls 10</div> <div>Overseas calls 17</div> <div>Repair service 11</div>
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Decree approves information agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday approving an information agreement reached between Jordan and Egypt. The cabinet had earlier endorsed the agreement which aims to develop cooperation between the two countries in information fields.

Sharif Zaid meets parliamentarians

AMMAN (Petra) — Commander in Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Tuesday met with a British parliamentary delegation, currently on a visit to Amman. Sharif Zaid briefed the delegation on a number of common issues of interest as well as reviewing the current political moves in the region.

Kana'an briefs U.N. fact-finding mission

AMMAN (Petra) — A United Nations fact-finding mission was briefed Tuesday by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Taher Kana'an on the situation in the Middle East and Israeli violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories. Mr. Kana'an spoke about Israel's arbitrary measures against the Arab population, Arab educational institutions and health centres and also about Israel's policy of deporting Arab mayors and citizens from their homeland. The fact-finding mission arrived here Sunday to gather information about the situation in the Israeli-held territories.

Government okays Chilean envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government has approved Chile's nomination of Mr. Carlos Derbarch to serve as minister plenipotentiary for his country in Jordan.

Work starts on ATPS

AQABA (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has embarked on implementing the first phase of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station (ATPS) on the Red Sea coast. A JEA spokesman said that the first phase entails installing two generating units, each with a capacity of 130 megawatts. Work on the first phase of the project, he said, is expected to be completed by the end of 1986.

Karak awards sports city tender

KARAK (Petra) — Karak Municipality has awarded a tender to a local company to carry out the first stage of Karak's sports city at a cost of JD 14,000. Mayor Maddallah Al Ja'afreh said that the first stage entails building viewing seats to accommodate 7,000 spectators, a soccer pitch and race tracks.

Yarmouk to form scientific societies

IRBID (Petra) — The Royal Commission of Yarmouk University has approved regulations on the establishment of scientific societies. These student societies are designed to encourage scientific activity among students and to develop cultural, intellectual, social, academic and technical cooperation among the university students, the commission said. The societies will publish research work and papers featuring literary and scientific topics.

Summer courses to start June 22

IRBID (Petra) — Summer courses at the University of Jordan's different faculties will start on June 22, 1985, according to an announcement by Mr. Farouk Al Muftri, director of the registration and admission department. He said that nearly 10,000 students have already enrolled for summer courses which end in August.

Jordan to attend desertification talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation will represent Jordan in a workshop on "Aspects of Fertile Land Use and Methods to Combat Desertification," to be held in Moscow on May 27. The Jordanian delegation will be headed by Mr. Saleh Al-Shar'at, deputy director of the Environment Department at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

Local choir group aims to bring people together through music

By Marwan Muasher
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Musical choir groups are hardly common in Jordan. Almost all previous efforts to form such groups came from foreigners living here, and thus were usually short-lived. But, thanks to the efforts of a few dedicated individuals, the situation is starting to change. One local group is trying to establish itself, although not without difficulties.

"The idea started five years ago," said Mrs. Samia Ghanoum, who, together with Mrs. Tania Nasser, founded the group back in 1980. Their inspiration came from Amin and Rima Nasser, who write nationalistic songs in their hometown of Bir Zeit. Mrs. Ghanoum and Mrs. Nasser thought then of encouraging local writers and poets through singing their songs in a choir setting, an objective Mrs. Ghanoum admits has not been fully achieved up till now.

The two contacted Mr. Karim Bawab, a known Jordanian conductor, who agreed to conduct the group. They started singing a variety of classical and popular songs, both Arab and foreign, in private homes until the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) offered to sponsor them. They have been known since as the "Amman YWCA Community Choir".

The group, according to Mr. Bawab, has suffered throughout its existence from lack of continuity. "Whereas we used to perform every year during Christmas week, we were not able to give a performance in 1984 due to lack of members," sighs Mr. Bawab. The group has dropped from between 40-45 members to its present level of about 20. It features four main voices: bass and tenor for men, soprano and alto for women.

Earlier performances featured heavy, classical pieces by such composers as Handel and Vivaldi, but due to the shortage of members, the group has been forced to take on lighter pieces. It also faced

a problem with the pianist, who left last year. That load has since been carried by Mrs. Ghanoum, although her voice is much needed in the choir.

To promote their cause, the choir recently gave a performance to a small group of interested individuals at the YWCA premises in town. The audience was treated to a variety of popular Arab and English songs, as well as several solo performances, in an informal and uplifting atmosphere. Tania Nasser, the leading soloist of the group, sang a beautiful nationalistic song in Arabic and stole the show with a rendition of "I could have danced all night".

"Group singing is not common in Arab culture", Mrs. Nasser told the Jordan Times, adding that she hopes the group would help introduce this form of singing in Jordan. Mrs. Nasser, a quite talented as well as spirited person, has her own ideas about the choir. "We hope to make this activity a family affair, whereby we can perform one night a month for spouses and families. Husbands here are not used to having their wives sing in public. By including them in our activities, we hope to get a closer-knit group".

Asked to comment on the group's plans, both Mr. Bawab and Mrs. Ghanoum expressed hope that more people would join. The group encourages people of all nationalities to join, and has among its members several foreigners living in Jordan. They like to stress, though, that this is a local community group, started by Jordanians who intend to see it last for many years to come.

Judging by the quality of their performance and the dedication and enthusiasm of its members, it is certain that the Jordanian community will hear more of this group in the near future. Indeed, such a group would be a welcomed addition to Jordan's growing cultural movement. "Music is an agent in bringing people together", Mrs. Nasser said, "and that is what the group is about".



PARLIAMENTARIANS RECEIVED: His latest development in the Middle East conflict. The Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday briefs a visiting British parliamentarians' team on the Speaker Akel Al Fayez (Petra photo)

Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation to honour 14 Arab scientists today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Fourteen Arab scientists have won Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation prizes for 1984 and will be awarded their prizes at a ceremony to be held in Amman Wednesday. The scientists won prizes for their research in pure sciences, humanities, agriculture, biology, medicine, pharmacy and engineering.

The winners were picked from 62 competitors working in the Arab region who had prepared scientific research papers in their specialisations and which contributed towards the development of Arab society in implementation of the foundation's objectives, according to a spokesman for the foundation.

The spokesman said Dr. Jassem Mohammad Al Rawi from Iraq, who won the prize for pure sciences, is employed by the Faculty of Chemistry at Mosul University as an assistant professor. Dr. Rawi prepared 20 research papers tackling scientific subjects notably in the field of magnetic resonance.

He founded a special magnetic resonance unit at the department of chemistry and he has also participated in special training courses on the subject and its relation to industry.

The foundation's prize for humanities was divided between Dr. Abdul Sattar Qasem and Dr. Ghazi Rahab'aa from Jordan and Dr. Tareq Hamdani from Iraq. Dr. Qasem works as assistant professor at Najah University on the West Bank. Dr. Qasem has prepared five scientific research papers on opinion polls held in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and contemporary history related to Arab issues. Dr. Hamdani works as a teacher of history at Baghdad's education faculty and has prepared 13 research papers which were published in scientific

gazettes. These contain historical analyses of events in the Arab region during the 16th century, which are related to current affairs in the Arab World.

Dr. Ghazi Rahab'aa from Jordan works as teacher of basic sciences at the Faculty of Economy and Business Administration at the University of Jordan. He has written scientific books analysing contemporary events and Israel's designs in the Arab region and also on the role of the two superpowers in the Middle East region.

The foundation's agriculture prize was shared equally between Dr. Hilal Hilal from Egypt and Dr. Abdullah Al Musa from Jordan. Dr. Hilal is employed as an assistant professor at the University of Alexandria Department of Agriculture. Dr. Hilal published 40 research papers over the past three years concentrating on insect genes and the effects of insecticides on insects hormones and development.

Dr. Musa works as assistant professor at the University of Jordan Agriculture Faculty. He published 20 research papers over the past three years dealing with the treatment of viruses affecting vegetables in Jordan. His ideas led to new techniques in combating viruses which attack tomatoes and a change in the system of using vegetable seeds.

The foundation's prize for biology was shared equally between two Egyptian scientists: Dr. Abdul Wahhab Issa who works at the Mansafah University Faculty of Agriculture and Dr. Usama Al Hussein Yusef who is employed as a professor at the same faculty dealing with poultry feed. Both have published research papers over the past three years dealing mostly with poultry feeding and

protection.

The foundation's prize for medical sciences and pharmacy was shared equally between Dr. Abdullah Mulukhih an Egyptian American and Dr. Mohammad Hassan Ali from Egypt.

Dr. Mulukhih works as an associate professor at the King Saud University Faculty of Pharmacy. He published several research papers on the preparation of non-alcoholic medicines.

The foundation's prize for clinical sciences was awarded for the first time to three scientists: Dr. Ahmad Mansour from Lebanon, Dr. Mustafa Khayati from Algeria and Dr. Najwa Bulos from Jordan.

Dr. Mansour is a researcher at the American University of Beirut Faculty of Medicine in the eye diseases department.

Dr. Khayati, who works as an assistant professor at Algiers University, published 76 research papers and seven books on health education dealing mainly in treating children in the Arab and North African states.

Dr. Bulos is an associate professor at the University of Jordan Faculty of Medicine dealing mainly with children.

The foundation's engineering sciences award went to Dr. Mohammad Abdul Rahman, an Egyptian Canadian who is now employed at the Faculty of Engineering and Petroleum in Kuwait's university.

The foundation will publish abstracts of scientific papers of award winners.

The foundation appointed an 11-member panel of judges with wide scientific experience and of high academic qualifications, chaired by Dr. Usama Al Khalidi, who selected the winners.

Number of unemployed rises to 27,000, Utoum says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Records available to the Ministry of Labour's employment department indicate that there are 27,000 unemployed persons in Jordan, the department's director, Dr. Mansour Utoum, said in a newspaper interview published Tuesday.

In 1984 the number of unemployed persons rose from 6,000 to 17,000, according to department's registers, but together with an additional 10,150 registered with the Civil Service Commission, the total number exceeds 27,000, Dr. Utoum said in an interview with Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper.

He said that Jordan employed 153,000 non-Jordanian Arab and foreign workers in the past year in the construction business, industry, general services and agriculture. But, he said, 85 per cent of these were Arab workers. A total of 4,000 technicians are also

employed in Jordan because there have been no Jordanian substitutes for them, he added.

Asked about the Labour Ministry's role in reducing the number of unemployed people, Dr. Utoum said it is a standing policy at the ministry to try to find suitable jobs for Jordanians, and whenever a job opportunity presents itself, priority is given to Jordanians before the job is offered to non-Jordanian Arabs and then to foreigners.

"We hope that in the new five-year development plan, the government will make provisions for

helping Jordanians to find work because unemployment among Jordanians is bound to have negative effects on the national economy," Dr. Utoum said. "In fact," he added, "there are many sectors which require workers, but the whole matter requires good organisation in order to achieve a balance between demand and supply of labour. This subject calls for a re-examination of the educational policy in Jordan with a view to turning out workers with different trades, and in other words education should be linked with the society's needs," Dr. Utoum added.

Questioned on reports about workers in the Gulf countries being made redundant, Dr. Utoum said that some workers have been laid off but so far not many Jordanians have been affected.

Arab Gulf programme donates \$909,500 to UNRWA

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organisations (AGFUND) has made a donation of \$909,500 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

The donation was announced following an AGFUND meeting held in Riyadh, capital of Saudi Arabia. According to the announcement, the donation will finance the establishment of two schools for Palestinian refugee children in the occupied West Bank.

UNRWA now operates 98 schools in the West Bank offering education to 39,900 children. Of these schools 60 have been built by UNRWA funds and the rest are rented buildings. The two projected schools will relieve UNRWA from paying rent for the remaining 38 schools.

Ministry offers adult education

TAFILEH (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education opened 14 adult education centres in the Tafleeh district since the beginning of this year, according to the local supervisor of adult education in Tafleeh.

Most of the students who come regularly for classes are females because men are normally employed at different places and find difficulty in attending the afternoon classes, according to the official.

Jordan, Egypt to cooperate in prospecting for oil, gas

AMMAN (Petra) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the Egyptian Petroleum Corporation will cooperate in oil exploration in Jordan and will exchange expertise and experience in prospecting for gas and crude oil, NRA Oil Department Director Kamal Jreisat announced here Tuesday.

He said that agreement on the cooperation programme was reached between the two sides during an NRA team visit to Egypt which ended Monday. The talks in Cairo centred on ways by which Jordan could benefit from Egyptian experience in oil-prospecting operations and it was agreed that an Egyptian technical team will visit Jordan in the coming few weeks to study the situation and the prospects of finding oil, Mr. Jreisat said.

He said that the two sides also discussed the possibility of Jordan benefiting from gas found in Egypt and areas in Jordan and also the possibility of establishing a national oil-drilling company in Jordan.

Mr. Jreisat said that he met with the director of the Egyptian corporation and other officials and briefed them on Jordan's oil prospecting programme in the coming five-year development plan.

Mr. Jreisat said that Egyptian experience in prospecting for oil in the Gulf of Suez and the Western desert could be useful in Jordan, because the geology of both areas is similar, especially in areas 400 kilometres north of Aqaba.

Wolf attacks four people, livestock in Basireh

TAFILEH (J.T.) — Four people from Basireh town in Tafleeh district have been admitted to hospital suffering from wounds inflicted by a wolf which attacked their homes early Monday.

According to Mr. Ahmad Zouqan, the Tafleeh district governor, the wolf attacked people living nearly five kilometres away from Basireh and no one has yet been able to kill the wolf which is still at large. This is the second time in a few months that people in Tafleeh district have been attacked by wolves and measures should be taken to protect the lives of the citizens, he said.

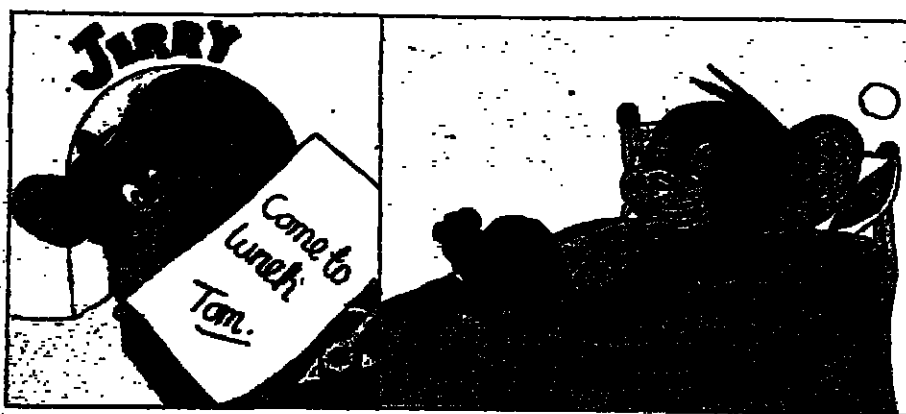
Last winter wolves attacked the town and wounded several people and, according to the town's mayor Mahmoud Al Zidaniyen, contacts are underway with the concerned authorities to control this danger, especially as some of the wolves in the area are known to be suffering from rabies which can be transmitted to man.

He said that vets in Tafleeh district are now examining some of the animals and livestock which also, were victims of the attack to determine whether they have been infected by any disease. All the wounded people have been described as being in satisfactory conditions.

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The boys are back at home

WITH their characteristic settler mentality, the Jewish settlers of the West Bank yesterday demonstrated outside the Israeli Knesset demanding freedom for members of a Jewish terror group in the wake of Monday's prisoner exchange between Israel and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC). The protesters readily gained the support of Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shalom having secured the backing of their mentor and idol Ariel Sharon and many other Israeli officials before him.

The settlers and their backers' contention for the release of their comrades is that the Jewish terrorists cannot possibly continue their terms of detention in jail while hundreds of Israel's "worst enemies" were freed in the prisoner exchange with the PFLP-GC. "It is unimaginable that after the release of the most terrible murderers... we should keep the Jewish underground prisoners under lock and key," contended Gen. Sharon.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres and his defence chief, Yitzhak Rabin, have so far held out against the settlers' demands, saying only that "one cannot mix the subject of redemption of prisoners with any other subject." But this stand is not going to hold for long, according to observers in Israel. "Given the expediency that brought the government to swallow the unprecedented steep terms of the (exchange), there inevitably will be a tendency (by Peres and Rabin) to give in to (the settlers') demands, too," one of them wrote in the Jerusalem Post yesterday.

Well, this whole debate in Israel might not be our business at all had it not been to one or two points that the Israelis themselves, more than anybody perhaps, know very well.

There is first the fact that Israel had to release the 1,150 Palestinian prisoners in order to secure the freedom of its three soldiers who were captured in the course of a war of aggression started and taken to the extreme by the Jewish state. Had Israel not gone into Lebanon, ordering the three soldiers as so many others to fight and kill, there might have not been any need for this whole exchange. Proportionate or not, the Israel-PFLP-GC deal was inevitable as far as Israeli obligations to their soldiers are concerned.

There is, in the second instance, an Israeli knowledge that settlers who formed terror groups to attack West Bank Palestinians, and who take the law into their hand, cannot be looked upon as an isolated case in defending the security of their state. The settlers' presence in the West Bank, indeed the Israeli occupation of Arab territories itself, is illegal and dangerous. And so how would an Israeli concede to the demands of settler terrorist group and at the same time not make a mockery of the entire system of "justice and democracy" in Israel?

These are subjects, not for us, but for the Israelis to ponder and discuss. We ourselves see the issue in a different light. We are glad just to see our boys back home, free to continue the struggle for their national aspirations and legitimate right.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Unanimity obstructs peace drive

KING HUSSEIN said in a newspaper interview published in Kuwait and Jordan that due to lack of Arab unanimity on a common strategy and joint action there has been no progress so far in reaching a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestine problem. But, he said, this situation should never discourage the Arabs who must back Jordan and the PLO in their drive to rally world support and convene an international conference to resolve the problem.

All Arabs, he said, should back the Jordanians and the Palestinians in their effort to reach a peaceful settlement, because they are directly affected by Israel's aggression and its consequences. The King warned the Arab nation against remaining passive as to the developments in the region and said that the present chance of reaching settlement should not be missed.

As the Arabs remain idle, the Israeli enemy continues the drive to carry out plans and build settlements in Arab lands. King Hussein also made it clear that Jordan can never act for the PLO, which should be involved in any peace negotiations as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Al Dustour: King reviews situation

KING HUSSEIN made a general review of the Arab situation and the Palestine question in his interview with the Kuwaiti daily Al Qabas and stressed that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian accord signed in Amman on Feb. 11, remained the basis for any future moves or solutions. This accord, the King said, continues to gain support of world nations because it is based on U.N. resolutions and calls for the achievement of peace based on justice, and aims at liberating Palestinian land and freeing its people.

Basing its policies on the Amman agreement, Jordan will continue to work towards ending Israeli occupation of Arab land despite the absence of Arab consensus. Jordan and the PLO, the King said, continue to try to mobilise Arab resources and rally Arab ranks with the aim of reaching a unified stand that can be respected by world nations.

In its drive to help the Palestinians to regain their homeland, Jordan has been calling for an international conference which can ensure the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions on Palestine.

In the interview, the King said great benefits will be achieved for the Arabs if they unify their ranks and impose their will on the Israeli enemy. He said the joint Jordan-PLO agreement is the last chance for the settlement of the Palestine problem on equitable basis.

Sawt Al Shaab: King urges unifying ranks

IN AN interview with the Kuwaiti daily Al Qabas, King Hussein reiterated Jordan's call on the Arabs to unify their ranks and mobilise their efforts and resources to defend their homeland and liberate Palestine and its Arab people. He said the Amman agreement represents the last opportunity for peace based on justice, and one that should be backed by Arab countries because it is in line with resolutions adopted by Arab leaders in their various summit meetings.

However, the King said, the Jordanians and Palestinians decided to act now and on their own because of the fast-moving developments in our region and in the face of threats and dangers confronting those Arabs who are directly involved in the Middle East question. Jordan and the PLO cannot wait for a total Arab consensus in order to take action, but support from Arab countries will be appreciated.

The ideal thing, King Hussein said, is to have all the Arabs joining ranks and standing together with one strategy vis-a-vis the Palestine problem and other regional questions that directly affect the Arab nation.

Reagan pressed to make 'Star Wars' concessions

By Charles Aldinger
 Reuters

WASHINGTON — With superpower arms talks set to resume on May 30, President Reagan is being pressed to offer concessions to Moscow on his "Star Wars" missile defence plan in order to spur cuts in offensive nuclear arsenals.

At congressional hearings and public meetings, former senior U.S. officials have urged Mr. Reagan to seek a breakthrough at the Geneva talks, possibly a ban on "Star Wars" tests outside the laboratory and a written U.S. pledge not to deploy a defence system unilaterally.

Mr. Reagan is also being advised by former officials and current members of Congress to limit the arms race by adhering to current restraints on nuclear weapons set by the 1979 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT-2). Washington and Moscow blame

each other for the lack of progress in the opening round of talks and the White House has denied Soviet charges that U.S. negotiators, headed by Max Kampelman, would not even discuss Mr. Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), commonly called Star Wars.

The Defence Department is spending billions of dollars on research into space-based lasers and other weapons to combat nuclear missiles, but Soviet leaders have given priority to banning defensive systems before they will agree to offensive arms cuts.

Former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Stansfield Turner, suggesting acceptance of such a deal in return for cuts in nuclear arms, asked a symposium on the military strength of the superpowers: "Why not go back there (Geneva) and get something for nothing?"

"We should keep an SDI research programme going but we're

a long, long way from any SDI defence. The Soviet Union will not cut missiles while the prospect exists that we can suddenly make their missiles less effective."

Former chief arms negotiators Paul Warnke and Gerard Smith told Reuters that the Soviet Union would not reduce its nuclear force unless it got more than statements from the Reagan administration that the Soviet offensive nuclear deterrence would not suddenly be neutralised.

"The possibilities of a deal are there," said Mr. Warnke, chief U.S. negotiator on SALT-2. "We would have to give them something on Star Wars first. I think it should be a ban on Anti-Satellite Testing (ASAT)."

Such a deal would help to allay Soviet fears about SDI because when you test weapons that destroy satellites, you are at the same time improving the technology for SDI.

"SDI is not going to take warheads out of the Soviet inventory. If they think we can deploy SDI, they will simply scrap the SALT treaty and put 30 warheads each on their 308 SS-18 missiles." The SS-18s now carry 10 warheads each.

However, Mr. Warnke said an offer for an anti-satellite testing ban might get the Kremlin to dismantle all its SS-18s, its biggest missile.

Mr. Smith, chief negotiator at the 1972 SALT-1 agreement, said: "I think that as long as we are going full throttle to render Soviet missiles impotent and obsolete they will not agree to reduce their numbers to make our task easier."

The United States should make a written promise never to deploy a Star Wars system unless the Soviet Union did so first.

Mr. Reagan has said the United States will not drop its Star Wars research, charging that the Soviet

Union has a major research programme on a nuclear missile defence.

Mr. Warnke said he believed the military would press Mr. Reagan not to break SALT-2 missile limits when the nuclear submarine Alaska with 24 multiple-warhead missiles had its sea trials this year.

Mr. Reagan must decide then whether to retire an older missile submarine or some Minuteman land-based missiles or violate the 1,200-missile limit in SALT-2, which both sides have pledged not to undercut even though Washington refused to ratify it.

"It is pretty obvious that if we break out of SALT, the Soviet Union, which has 80 per cent of its missile force on land, can mount a lot more warheads," Mr. Warnke said.

Four U.S. senators wrote to Mr. Reagan on May 13 saying that violating SALT-2 would end superpower restraint on nuclear dep-

loyments, cast a pall over the arms talks in Geneva and seriously damage important U.S. foreign policy interests.

Republicans John Chafee of Rhode Island and John Heinz of Pennsylvania and Democrats Dale Bumpers of Arkansas and Patrick Leahy of Vermont were responding to Mr. Reagan's claim on May 10 that there was considerable evidence the Soviet Union had violated SALT-2.

If that was the case, Mr. Reagan said, "There is no need for us to continue to honour it."

The Washington Post reported this week that the administration might put an older Poseidon nuclear missile submarine in dry dock rather than dismantle it when the new Trident submarine is launched late this year.

It quoted arms experts as saying that this would be a "grey area" effort to avoid direct violation of SALT-2.

S. Africa white rulers appear uncertain about future

By Victor Mallet
 Reuters

CAPE TOWN — South Africa's white rulers, battered by daily reports of rioting and bloodshed in black townships and mounting international criticism, appear uncertain about the future.

The National Party government of President P.W. Botha has publicly admitted that "grand apartheid", the policy of denying blacks South African citizenship and dumping them in nominally independent tribal homelands, has been something of a failure.

But it does not appear to know how to implement its new idea of accommodating millions of blacks in South African politics at the same time as preserving white control.

A new National Party booklet,

entitled "And What about the Black People?", admits past errors and concedes that critics might see a policy vacuum.

"The impression might easily be created that the government and the National Party are without a policy, that until such time as we and the black people have come to a decision about a future dispensation for all the people in the country the government itself does not know where it is leading South Africa."

But it continues: "This is far removed from the truth. The government has spelt out clearly defined points of departure which will be used as guidelines in the negotiating process."

The main problem facing the government is that its guidelines, including continued racial segregation and a rejection of one-

man, one-vote in a unified South Africa, are unacceptable to its major black opponents.

Mr. Botha and his cabinet ministers rarely use the word "apartheid", preferring "group rights" or "self-determination", but they say they are still committed to segregation and the tribal homelands system.

They admit however that only about 40 per cent of the country's 23 million blacks can ultimately be accommodated in the homelands, leaving a black majority dwarfing the white South African population of about 4.5 million.

"Therefore it should be clear that some form of political rights will have to be granted to the black people living outside the national states," says the party booklet, which is being distributed to white constituencies.

"However, it is also clear that these rights will have to be structured in such a way that they will not destroy the established rights of the whites, (mixed race) coloureds and Indians."

The booklet, a summary of current National Party thinking by member of parliament Stoffel van der Merwe, grapples with the idea of satisfying the political aspirations of blacks without allowing them into the white central government.

Black leaders have been invited to discuss the issue with Mr. Botha, but major groups such as the Anti-Apartheid United Democratic Front have rejected the offer, saying they want an end to white rule and racial segregation.

Among the proposals being mooted by the government are

increased powers for discredited black local authorities, which have virtually collapsed.

Black councillors and their relatives have been backed to death or burnt alive by rioters who accuse them of collaborating with the white government, and many have resigned.

Other possibilities suggested by the government include a national assembly for blacks outside the homelands and the granting of powers to homelands over areas outside their borders. The homelands are not recognised internationally.

Government leaders now appear willing to make significant reforms to the apartheid policies which have been enforced since the National Party came to power in 1948 — provided that whites

retain control of the country.

This year Mr. Botha and his cabinet, which includes two non-whites, have granted freehold property rights to many blacks, abolished laws barring inter-racial sex and marriage and announced plans to soften influx control laws which restrict the movements of blacks. They have also suspended forced removals.

"The ideal towards which we are striving is the creation of a South Africa in which every nation and population group — including the whites — will have a place in the sun," says Mr. van der Merwe's booklet.

But it adds: "This may appear to be very idealistic and impossible to achieve in the very difficult circumstances in which we find ourselves."

Arab News



Paris-Bonn honeymoon is over?

By Henri de Bresson

Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Francois Mitterrand are planning a special private meeting in West Germany on May 28 in an attempt to repair the damage caused by what are being described as the Franco-German "misunderstanding" at the recent seven-nation summit in Bonn. The decision, taken on May 4, the day the summit ended, was announced two days later by the Federal German government's deputy spokesman who did his best to soften the sense of crisis hanging over relations between Paris and Bonn.

BONN — President Francois Mitterrand's flat refusal to agree to a date being set for resuming multilateral world trade negotiations within the framework of GATT, and his later announcement that France would not be taking part in President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) have caused more confusion than anger here.

Political commentators in the press for the most part show understanding for Mr. Mitterrand's position even when they say it was partly prompted by ulterior political motives.

The Bitburg business and the exaggerated consideration Chancellor Kohl showed his American guest have left a bad taste in the mouth, which has been made worse by the arrogance of the American delegation all throughout President Reagan's stay. By announcing, from Bonn, the total embargo on Nicaragua, taking a tough negotiating stand and adopting an inflexible position on questions of protocol, the Americans have not left happy memories behind. "They behaved like slobbs," commented one German official after the summit. For instance, on a Saturday evening Mr. Mitterrand had to wait 20 minutes for his car because U.S. security men refused to move Mr. Reagan's backup vehicle.

In the German chancellor's immediate circle, the tendency has been to show deep irritation with the French president. Officially, though, a more circumspect attitude is maintained. The official line is that differences between friends are only natural and the best thing is just to thrash things

out. Despite Mr. Reagan's overtures on the SDI programme, it is being said here that no decision has been taken yet and that the German position has not changed in the last few weeks.

Bonn's defence council, which brings together the ministers concerned with security questions, will meet soon to examine the subject before an interministerial fact-finding mission leaves for Washington. Informed sources in Bonn say they still do not know precisely what the American offer meant. None of the U.S. officials present was able to clarify anything either.

Mr. Kohl's enthusiasm and his spokesman, Peter Boenisch's warning to anyone tempted to hold back European participation pose a prickly problem for West German diplomacy. Many are tempted to put the chancellor's attitude down to a large measure of political naivete. Wolf G. Bell, the "General Anzeiger's" diplomatic commentator, who normally takes a line close to the Foreign Ministry's views, noted on May 6: "His penchant for the emotional, his need for effusive demonstrations are causing pendulum swings one way and another and casting a shadow over foreign policy."

Who is to be believed? Those who declare — like the weekly "Der Spiegel" — that the Chancellor has already surrendered to the Americans as the price of Mr. Reagan's visit to the Bitburg cemetery? Or the sceptics who plan to wait and see? The only certain thing is that, appearances notwithstanding, there is no official

decision. Mr. Kohl is under conflicting pressures from one segment of his party and from his foreign minister, Hans Dietrich Genscher, whose political fortunes are admittedly in the doldrums.

Mr. Kohl's usual line in such conditions is to let things drag on as long as possible before taking a decision. Finally, it is also certain that he was deeply touched by Mr. Reagan's decision to stand by him and go through with the Bitburg visit regardless of pressure from the Congress, but at the same time he also owes Mr. Mitterrand a debt for their handshake at Verdun.

The German government has shown far less understanding of the French president's refusal to give in on the GATT issue than of his attitude on the Strategic Defence Initiative, whose logic Bonn seems to accept. There appears to be no objection, in theory, to the Eureka programme, although it is meeting with quite some scepticism and one major qualification: when it comes to big money, Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg will require plenty of arm-twisting.

While they sympathise with Mr. Mitterrand's irritation and share both his distrust of the United States and his views of European technological cooperation, many German diplomats nonetheless fear his outburst may cost them the limited elbowroom they had for plugging the Eureka programme. "The worst thing," they say, "would be a French-American face-off which would force Chancellor Kohl to choose sides."

In spite of all the European promises and all the rhetoric heard in the past two years about the Paris-Bonn axis, nothing has fundamentally changed yet. Franco-German cooperation is still coming up against the same prejudices, against the difficulty of accepting the other as a serious partner, whether it be for eco-



Drawn by Steve Meyers/The Washington Post

Voting: The Greeks have a word for it

Andrianos Keriadon looks at preparations by Greece's two main political parties for national elections on June 2. This is the first real test of the country's Socialist experiment — but has "rousefi" disappeared?

ATHENS — On June 2, more than 7.5 million Greeks will go to the polls to elect a new government. Their votes, which are compulsory, will show whether Greece's first experiment in Socialist rule has been a success or a failure.

Predictions of how the voting will go are hazardous, given the lack of reliable public opinion polls. Most observers, however, expect a close race between Dr. Andreas Papandreu's Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) and the conservative New Democracy Party led by Mr. Constantine Mitsotakis.

Pasok swept general elections in 1981 with a runaway 48 per cent majority against just 36 per cent for the conservatives. The 1984 European elections, however, were fought in Greece with all the intensity of a national contest and showed that the gap had narrowed from about 12 per cent to about 3.5 per cent in the interval.

The votes were distributed with: 41.58 per cent to Pasok; 38.05 per cent to New Democracy Party; 11.64 per cent to the communist Party of Greece; 3.42 per cent to the Eurocommunist Party; and 2.29 per cent of EPEN, the far-right party.

This time Pasok will have to fight hard if it is to secure a second term. The way in which Pasok and New Democracy are structuring their campaigns is an interesting window into the differences in ideology and style between the two parties.

The mood at the conservative campaign headquarters, a sleek glass tower block in central Athens, is upbeat. The choice of premises reflects a conscious bid to update New Democracy's image, and its method of waging election battles. In 1981, the conservatives relied on traditional "rousefi" politics — a Greek word deriving from the Turkish for "bribe", which has been used since Ottoman days to suggest patronage and nepotism all in one. As a result they suffered a merciless defeat before Pasok's dynamic, modern grass-roots organisation.

New Democracy is now sitting down to plan a coherent campaign strategy with the help of a New York-based firm of consultants.

"We are trying to shed our paternalistic image. We also believe that these elections will be won on issues, not emotions," said Mr. Stephanos Manos, a former cabinet minister and chief coordinator of the conservatives' 1985 campaign.

The campaign plan is for Mr. Mitsotakis to harp on the government's last-minute dumping of former conservative President Constantine Karamanlis last March in favour of their own candidate for head of state, in a bid to

create a "credibility issue" against the Socialists. The conservative leader will also hit hard on economic issues such as unemployment and high prices. These are judged to be the government's Achilles' heel, as opposed to foreign policy, where Dr. Papandreu's neutralist brand of nationalism has, by New Democracy's own admission, swept the voter market.

So far, Mr. Mitsotakis has unveiled his party's programme for the economy and agriculture. He has also produced a number of acres in the form of one-off pledges on emotive issues such as reducing income tax; limiting army service to 18 months instead of more than two years; and abolishing import duties on the Greek family's most-coveted buy, the private car.

In each case, Mr. Mitsotakis has provoked the government into lengthy, defensive statements of rebuttal, relayed on state television news bulletins.

"We either have to make Mr. Mitsotakis's promises look ridiculous or get drawn into limitless handouts," said Mr. Dimitris Rokos, a member of Pasok's executive committee who is on the campaign planning team. He says Pasok will have its own detailed policy programme for the next four-year term ready for presentation soon after parliament recesses for the elections.

The Socialists have sought to turn New Democracy's American consultant connections into a weapon against Mr. Mitsotakis, with scathing statements at every turn on "the Americans". Unsophisticated though this may seem to the West European mind, it is in fact a potent strategy in post-dictatorship Greece where the word "American" still carries considerable pejorative connotations.

Pasok, by contrast, stresses its made-in-Greece campaign — put together, according to Mr. Rokos, by Dr. Papandreu, party officials and selected ministers and deputies. Its aim is to reinforce the party's effective image as the prime Greek political force representing freedom from foreign interference, another sensitive, and emotive issue given Greece's political history.

"My son is a doctor. He's just coming up for an appointment. If the others win the elections he'll never get it, just like before under the right. If you were left-wing you were an underdog," one middle-aged woman said as she stood watching Dr. Papandreu's first pre-election speech on the island of Crete. "Rousefi" could be what Greek politics is still all about — Financial Times news feature.

Indonesians speak their minds over environmental problems

The people of Indonesia recently spoke out about their environmental problems before a new international group: the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission).

By Warief Djajanto

JAKARTA — The World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) recently visited Jakarta for the first of a global series of public hearings. Indonesian environmental groups seized the opportunity to assail their government's poor record on the environment.

Jakarta was the first of six hearings scheduled to take place before WCED reports to the U.N. General Assembly in 1987. Individuals and environmental groups gave their views on what is going wrong with Indonesia's environment, and why.

Formed in 1983 by U.N. charter, the WCED is to seek development strategies that will make reasonable growth possible without destroying the environment. Its chairman is Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, a former prime minister of Norway. Sitting with her is an international panel of 22 politicians, academics and environmentalists.

Before President Suharto for-

mally opened the scheduled Jakarta meeting between WCED and government officials, the commission held a whole day of public hearings. Erna Witelara, executive director of the Indonesia Environmental Forum (Walhi), lined up a strong collection of environmental groups from the 600 Walhi member organisations.

Such groups here are called "lembaga swadaya masyarakat" or self-reliant community organisations. The political culture of Indonesia requires that they avoid the tactics of confrontation, such as street demonstrations or civil disobedience, sometimes espoused by their "Northern" counterparts. Instead, they present well-researched evidence to public meetings and the media.

Given an opportunity to voice their concern about the state of Indonesia's environment, the group representatives and other individuals did not hesitate to criticise government policy and the practices of industries. The concerted drive for economic growth — in agriculture, manufacturing,

mining, offshore petroleum, and the timber industry — is disrupting Indonesia's natural habitat.

George Aditjondro, director of the Irian Jaya Development Information Service, argued that the government's programmes on family planning and transmigration contradict one another. On the overcrowded main island of Java, the government urges two-child families. At the same time it provides allowances for large Javanese families if they agree to resettle in remote Irian Jaya. The government thus seems to be officially opposed to large families, while providing financial incentives for the formation of large families so long as they move to the hinterland.

Mr. Aditjondro suggested the Transmigration Department should be consistent in its support for small families. It should also be more careful to ensure that settler families acquired the right skills. Otherwise, transmigration by unsuitably trained settlers could entail improper land cultivation and soil degradation. The wet rice paddy cultivation of Java would be inappropriate for the fragile rainforest soils of Irian Jaya.

On the practices of companies, Mr. Aditjondro cited the case of timber concessionaires in East Kalimantan, on Borneo, spraying insecticide on the trees they cut. The logs are then towed down the rivers of this large, forest-rich island. Log-borne insecticide pollutes the water which people in East Kalimantan drink, cook with and bathe in. Many cases of skin irritation have been reported.

Dr. Meizar Syafei, former health officer at the Union Carbide plant near Jakarta, testified how she resigned under duress. When Dr. Syafei discovered mercury in the water discharged by the plant she reported this and recommended that action be taken. She was branded a "dangerous" individual, and her position became isolated.

The Indonesian public hearing set a format for the WCED to follow in future meetings. Comparisons will be made on the testimony made by people from different countries, said the commissioner from Indonesia.

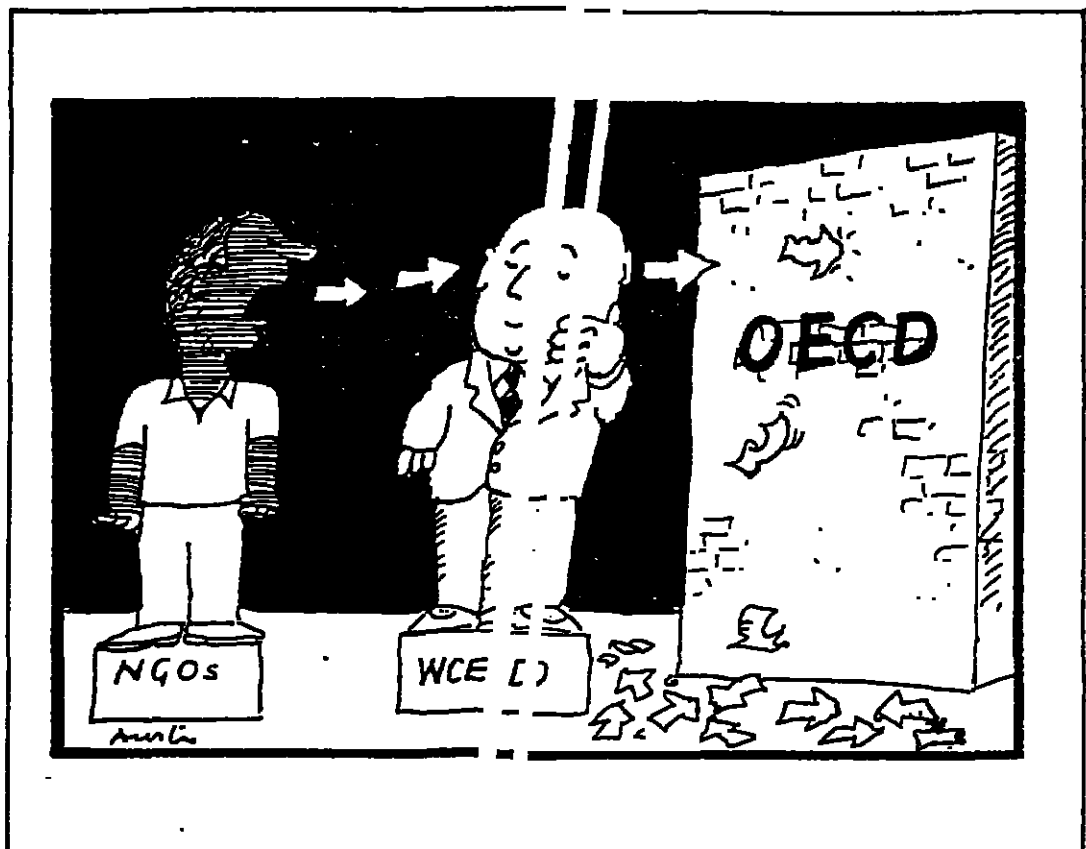
Janez Stanovnik, the commission member from Yugoslavia, and a professor of development economics at the University of Ljubljana said: "It is extremely

important for those who hold high office to have a system that percolates to the ground".

The WCED plans to avoid isolating environmental problems from the government policies which cause or exacerbate them. Will this politicised approach result in recommendations which individual governments will actually implement?

The recommendations of the Brundtland Commission were torpedoed by the United States and the member states of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), said Shridath Ramphal of Guyana, the only member of the Brundtland Commission on the WCED, and secretary-general of the Commonwealth. He believes the basic problem is the refusal of those who are "the establishment" in the world to accept change.

"Essentially the need is for a new mentality on the part of those who are better off — that their own interests in the long run will be served by a world that is a little more equal than it is now, that is less divisive, less explosive. This is what we are attempting to work for." — Earthscan feature.



London regains musical glory with 4 years of 'Cats'

London is rivaling Broadway for successful musicals, and producers are looking beyond their traditional band of "angels" for finance. But Anthony Thorne, who wrote the lyrics for "Cats", says there are plenty of flops.

LONDON — "Cats" has just celebrated four years on the London stage. Celebrating, too, must be the investors in Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical: an average £750 (\$940) stake has already paid back around £6,000 (\$7,500) and there will be more to come.

It is the success of shows like "Cats" which finances the many theatrical failures, such as "Shrewd", a musical based on the Robin Hood legend which this month collapsed on its pre-London tour through underfunding. At least £500,000 is needed to launch even a modest musical these days (Starlight Express cost £2 million), and with so many arriving in the West End to take advantage of the current cult for escapism, new methods of financing are being investigated.

Theatre Productions has sought to raise £1 million for "Mutiny", a musical by, and starring, David Essex and based on the mutiny on the Bounty. It is seeking the

ex-Hampstead Theatre and the National, waiting in the wings to mop up the spare cash. For "Mutiny" now only needs £450,000 of the sought £1 million.

The oddest thing about this unusual method of raising money to mount "Mutiny" is that, according to Theatre Productions, its advance box office take is almost £1 million. Any production company with that kind of cash in hand would have no trouble getting any extra cash needed from the small group of habitual "angels". But Theatre Productions maintains that it wants to start with a success to show that novel ways of funding musicals are not employed just for forlorn hopes.

Traditionally, anyone interested in a flutter on the stage wrote either to the Society of West End Theatres, which forwards a list of names of cash-hungry producers, or to the producer direct. For any production which looked like a success, the producer's traditional band of angels would stump up the cash. Parading shareholders around the populace was one of the doubtful starters.

So far, the company has become involved in 14 shows, of which seven have made a profit for their investors. Three were total disasters and the other four just about broke even. Mr. Campbell Bowring reckons that if you had bought a unit in all of his projects, you would have had a two-and-a-half times return on your

investment — thanks in the main to "Cats".

He points out that theatre is a speculative home for spare cash, much favoured by expatriates who do not have to worry about paying tax on any gains. For most people the attraction is the gamble linked to show business. Buying a unit, which has now inflated to £1,000, does not give you free seats for the first night but there is a feeling of involvement with the West End stage — some of the glamour rubs off.

From being a last resort of worried producers, Stage Payments is now contacted early in the financing of a musical. It has just launched "Me and My Girl" for which it contributed £150,000, a quarter of the cost. There it seems set fair for a return of the original investment in six months and then a steady appreciation of profit. Not that a long run always means a return — "Blonde" played for many months and failed to return a profit, although Mr. Campbell Bowring remains hopeful.

If you want to invest in musicals you should spread your money

over half a dozen or so productions. But, even then, the rewards are not overwhelming. There is the fee to companies like Stage Payments (7½ per cent on the original stake) or to the managers of Theatre Productions. There are the running costs which can delay the pay-out on even successful shows — "On Your Toes", with high payments to American interests and stars, has yet to reward its investors after almost a year and "Starlight Express" is expected to take two years to recoup its initial £2 million costs. And there is always the producer taking 40 per cent of any profits.

One regular "angel", Canon Christopher Atkinson, reckons that since August 1978 he has supervised the investment of over £22,000 in 29 different productions, with an expected profit of just £329. Only 12 productions have returned a profit — among them is "Cats", the great standby. Many of those celebrating its fourth anniversary will be conveniently forgetting losses elsewhere. — Financial Times news feature.

Penguin, healthy and wealthy, celebrates fiftieth anniversary

By Michael Wise

LONDON — The Antarctic seabird stalked by an artist depicted in London Zoo 50 years ago now sits on bookshelves around the world, the doyen of paperback logos.

Penguin books is observing five decades in publishing with more than 6,000 titles in print, from Homer's "Iliad" to Jane Fonda's "Workout Book". A brash marketing approach which appalled its older editors has revitalised sales and profits.

Penguin was founded by the late C. N. Lane in 1935 with 10 paperback novels costing a mere old shilling (three pence) each. Puffin, Pelican, Peregine joined the avian, and Penguin soon won acclaim as a "pocket library".

It only did it reprint fiction which had appeared first in hardback. It also commissioned translations of classics and respected national works of history, politics and archaeology.

Penguin editors had an inclination to lead public taste that scented all commercial considerations. Mr. Lane's biographer and associate, J.E. Morley, has written:

"During a recession and intense competition, Penguin went into decline in the 1970s, however. Its owners, S. Pearson and Son, brought in Peter Mayer as a chief executive to shake up the company."

Mr. Mayer ordered 100 reductions after he arrived in 1971. He then pared 800 titles from Penguin's list of books in print. Using skills honed while heading Pocket Books and Avon in New York, the American executive aggressively promoted 4. Kaye's popular romance "The Far Pavilions" and jazzed up covers with graphics with, in cases, previously-shunned pictures of couples in heated embraces.

Half a dozen senior editors quit. Mr. Cochrane, now editorial director for Hutchinson books, said it was a question of "instability" with Mr. Mayer and his style.

Mr. Mayer told Reuters in a recent interview: "The howl and screech were very loud indeed because everybody looked upon Penguin as being emblematic of the changes, whereas in fact it was every kind of publishing that Penguin did before I came in."

After losing 242,000 sterling (\$295,000) in 1979, Penguin had a pre-tax profit last year of 1.3 million (\$15.8 million) on worldwide sales of 90 million books (8 million).

With the company back in financial health, Mr. Mayer has restored some books to the list, which is now at a record high.

"He's certainly levelled out, getting a better balance," said Kaye Webb, former editor of the children's Puffin imprint.

All the same, some of the old guard regret books like "Lace" by Shirley Conran, saying the old Penguin wouldn't touch such writing, much less compose its blurb about "an international backdrop of the rich, the famous and the depraved."

But "Lace" has sold more than one million copies at 2.95 pounds (\$3.60) since it came out two years ago. "Lace 2" is now in the bookshops, adorned with the famous Penguin symbol.

"Penguin always used to publish books like that but pretended they didn't," says former editor Neal Middleton. "The difference is that Mayer makes a virtue out of it."

Mr. Mayer insists that having "Lace" or "The Far Pavilions" alongside the works of Graham Greene or Thomas Mann does not hurt Penguin's reputation and says in some ways it even helps.

Mark Twain musical last attempt to save Broadway season

By Barbara Bright

NEW YORK — A raft river ride by America's favourite rapscallion, Huckleberry Finn, with music by "King of the Road" singer-songwriter Roger Miller, is Broadway's final attempt at a hit musical this season.

When "Big River", the musical version of Mark Twain's classic about Huck Finn's adventures on the Mississippi, opened here late April, most critics hailed it as a promising time-turner at the end of a disastrous season.

"It is the first (musical) that audiences can attend without fear of suffering either profound embarrassment or terminal boredom,"

said the New York Times.

"The defiantly countrified Roger Miller score, which features such Broadway oddities as a banjo and a harmonica, comes up as fresh and original..." said the New York Post's Clive Barnes.

Broadway is suffering not only from a lack of successful products, but skyrocketing production costs and ticket prices as high as \$45 apiece that have kept many theatre goers home in front of the television set.

"Big River" follows in the wake of a string of flops and critically-condemned shows, including "grind", about a 1933 Chicago burlesque house, "The Three Musketeers" and "Leader of the Pack". It could prove the only

musical this season worthy of a Tony nomination, the great white swan of the musical.

With only critical disasters to choose from, the presenters of the Tony Award were considering dropping the music category altogether this year, according to Broadway insiders.

Miller, 48, is an unlikely saviour. Despite 28 years in the music business, he has seen only a handful of plays and had never before written for the theatre.

"Big River" was the brainchild of Producer Rocco Landesman, a lifelong Roger Miller fan. He first suggested putting Mark Twain and Miller together about three years ago when Miller was singing at a New York country music nightclub.

Until Michael Jackson topped him with 12, Miller held the all-time single-year high of 11 recording industry grammy awards for his like "Dang me" and "England Swings".

But that was in the 60s. His most recent fame was from an American Express commercial recalling "King of the Road", his anthem to America's Life on the Highways.

The show's Director Des McAnuff says Miller was the ideal person to write the music for "Big River".

"The roots of his music are similar to the roots of the piece — blues, country, cajun, gospel, jazz. They're all historically connected

to the Mississippi River, which was the vein that brought music to America."

"Guv'ment," sung by Huck's drunkard father, has the lyric — "You soul-seller, no good son of a Deadpanned shoe-fitter"

— "I'd always been writing songs and sometimes it's like throwing darts without a dartboard."

"But here there's a place for them to be. If it's successful, it's more fulfilling. Here the music can live a while."

Miller says he knows little of Broadway musical traditions but now he has aspirations. As a boy in Oklahoma, he said: "I wanted to be Hank Williams, then I wanted to be Andy (Williams). Now I want to be... Jerome Kern."

Cairo court says parts of '1,001 Nights' obscene, approves confiscation

By Dalia Baligh

CAIRO — An Egyptian court ruled Sunday that parts of the unexpurgated edition of "Thousand and One Nights" violate public morals. It ordered 3,000 confiscated copies to be destroyed and fined their publishers and distributors.

Judge Ahmad Al-Hossainy, whose court handles misdemeanor cases, said the defendants can appeal within 10 days, but it was not certain whether an appeal would be filed.

He also said his decision will not be a legal precedent for future cases, even those involving the same editions he ruled obscene.

fiscated the books and charged a publisher and three booksellers with misdemeanor violations of pornography laws by printing, importing and distributing them.

Judge Al-Hossainy agreed that the unexpurgated versions of the Middle Eastern classic were obscene.

The three main defendants, publisher Hussein Sobaih and booksellers Hussein Labib Al-Zein and Mohammad Rashad, were fined the maximum 500 pounds (\$400) allowable under the charge. Almost all the 3,000 seized copies came from them — the 1,500 copies taken from an edition printed in Beirut, Lebanon — and in addition Mr. Al-Hossainy

ordered the destruction of Mr. Sobaih's printing plates.

A third bookseller, Thabet Abdul-Rahim, who had only a handful of copies taken from his shop, was fined 100 pounds (\$80).

The judge could have sentenced all defendants to up to two years in jail.

The case has caused an uproar among Egyptian scholars and intellectuals, who argue that "Thousand and One Nights" should not be censored because it is a world-renowned classic. Several have expressed fears that the case could lead to tampering by the government with other literary classics.

Brig. Adly Al-Kosheiry, who initiated the case as head of the

Interior Ministry's delinquents department, contends that "Thousand and One Nights" is not a classic but, that its "unexpurgated version, is a threat to Egyptian youth."

"There is no known author for the book," he recently told the Associated Press. Over the years, each publisher has added what he wants to the stories to sell more copies and attract more readers.

"The book is not part of our heritage, and even if it were," any part of our heritage that includes dirty words should be locked up in a museum and an expurgated version should be made available to the youth."

Scholars say the 125 stories in "Thousand and One Nights" are

of Persian, Indian and Iraqi origin. The first complete edition appeared in Calcutta, India, in the early 19th century, and the first Egyptian edition, published in 1881, is based on that version.

Despite their non-Arab origins, the stories have come to be identified in the West with Arab and Islamic cultures.

Egyptian intellectuals concede that some parts of the book are racist. But Sobaih Al-Kalamawy, a professor at Cairo University who wrote her doctoral dissertation on "Thousand and One Nights," said:

"The words on sex constitute less than one-tenth of this book... There are many more graphic details of sex, even homosexual sex,

in our heritage of literature and poetry, but it is our heritage and, of course, we will not change it."

Mr. Al-Kalamawy said that in the book, Scheherazade, bride of King Shehryar of Samarkand, "used her wit and knowledge of stories, depending on human curiosity" to stop the king from beheading her as he had done a series of virgin brides after their wedding nights.

"This shows that the book is not based on a sexual theme," she said.

Judge Al-Hossainy said that his court ruling, applies only to the 3,000 copies the prosecutor initially seized; and to no other copies of the book, not even to the same edition he ordered destroyed.

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Holmes retains IBF heavyweight title, beating Williams by points

RENO, Nevada (R) — Larry Holmes, losing the early rounds to the jabs of Carl 'The Truth' Williams, came on with blows to the body and head late in the fight to retain his International Boxing Federation heavyweight championship Monday night in a 15-round unanimous decision.

Holmes, who weighed 222-1/4 pounds, won by seven points, 146-139, on two of the three American judges' scorecards, but by just 143-144 on the other.

Holmes, who won the last four rounds on the scorecards of the judges, seemed to be waiting in the early going to land his strong right hand for a knockout.

He abandoned his usual ring craftmanship, which with Monday night's win gives him a 48-0 record, one short of the record of Rocky Marciano, the only heavyweight champion to retire undefeated.

Holmes drew first blood, opening up a cut over Williams' left eye in the third round, but the challenger's corner repaired the damage several times in the fight and it was never really a factor.

By the ninth round, the champion's left eye was beginning to close from Williams' persistent jabs.

Most of the 6,046 people in the auditorium seemed to feel the fight was closer, as it was not one of Holmes' most impressive efforts.

Williams' 85 inches (215.0 centimetres) reach, four inches (10.16 centimetres) longer than that of Holmes, prevented the champion from landing his right over the jab, as he has often done in the past.

Williams, who weighed 215 pounds (97.5 kilograms), played a sharp, jab remarkably younger Holmes' heavyweight title.

Holmes' lack of formance for most some ringside ovinced that he will time breaking Man which Holmes has s.

But Holmes, at 35, has the experience of 12 years as a professional fighter. Compared with the Williams' three years, Holmes through.

The champion was up points by scoring b body. When Williams c hands, Holmes landed s shots to the

By the eighth-round, Holmes started to work on his o body.

Williams had trouble with the final as took a order to ng lefts and rights.

By the 14th round, Williams' hands were lowered and f began connecting with rig the head.

Holmes had Williams in trouble in the 14th and 15th round couldn't put him down, Ho

also had Williams jarred and in trouble in the ninth, but again time ran out.

Holmes was never seriously hurt or in any danger of going down, but his vision was almost completely gone in the left eye by the end of the bout, and he was bleeding from the mouth in the final two rounds.

Holmes reportedly received \$2.5 million for his 18th title defence and third IBF defence, while Williams got \$175,000.

Holmes did not attend the post-fight press conference, but Williams did, saying that he thought the fight was closer than the scoring indicated.

"He's a great champion and I have respect for him, but I don't think he did enough to win a unanimous decision. He fought good but I think it's time for him to pack it in," Williams said. "It's time for the young lions, and I'm one of them."

U.S. moves closer to qualify for World Cup

TORRANCE, California (R) — The United States used a first-half goal by Paul Caligiuri to beat Trinidad and Tobago 1-0 Monday and move another step closer to qualifying for the World Cup for the first time since 1950.

The victory by the Americans, their second over Trinidad and Tobago in five days, blocked Trinidad and Tobago from moving on to the third round of play in CONCACAF (Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Federations) group three.

The only goal of the game came fourteen minutes into the contest when defender Caligiuri headed the ball past Trinidad's brilliant goalkeeper Michael Maurice.

Trinidad and Tobago's best scoring chance came two minutes into the second half. Defender Garnet Craig tried to head the ball past U.S. goalkeeper Arnold Mausser, but the American came up with a great save, preventing a sure goal.

The United States now moves to the top of the CONCACAF region, group three standings ahead of Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago.

All the United States must do now to advance to the CONCACAF third round is to win one of its next two games against Costa Rica.

Canada and Honduras already have qualified for the third round from which the CONCACAF representative in the World Cup will be chosen.

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Real Madrid collects UEFA Cup today

MADRID (R) — Real Madrid, six times Champions' Cup winners but without a European trophy since 1966, will end that 19-year wait by taking possession of the UEFA Cup Wednesday.

The Spaniards pencilled their name on the trophy two weeks ago when they beat Videoton 3-0 in Hungary, and the formal presentation will go ahead after the second leg-in the Bernabeu Stadium.

Videoton, the unknown factory team from Szekesfehervar who conquered Manchester United on their way to the final, accept the fact they will fill a supporting role and their confidence will slip a further notch if their injury problems do not clear up.

Manager Ferenc Kovacs has a relatively small squad to work with and he will have a real headache if midfielder Ferenc Csobor

ngrady and striker Lajos Major fail late fitness tests.

Real, who ended a string of domestic defeats by reaching the Spanish League Cup semifinals last weekend, will probably field the same side which won in Hungary.

Real Madrid manager Luis Moloway, whose main worry is how to avoid overconfidence, said: "I want my players to be tense, it's dangerous for them to become relaxed."

"I don't agree with those who think Videoton are a weak side. We had a very good night in Hungary, but that doesn't mean they're amateurs."

But the Hungarians' morale has not been boosted by their recent performances and their hopes of winning the Hungarian championship faded after last Friday's 1-0 away defeat against Debrecen.

England meets Finland in World soccer Cup campaign

HELSINKI (R) — England should confirm their reemergence as a major European soccer power when they continue an impressive World Cup campaign against Finland today.

Though they have slipped up on similar assignments in the past, most notably against Norway three and a half years ago, England have regained their self-belief and the Finns are unlikely to endanger their unbeaten record in group three.

But manager Bobby Robson is well aware that Finland still harbour ambitions of joining England in the 1996 finals in Mexico, though both Northern Ireland and Romania appear better placed to finish group runners-up.

"We must put last October's 5-0 win over the Finns behind us," said Robson. "We haven't qualified for Mexico yet, but if we get two points Wednesday we'll be practically there."

Robson has been forced to make one change to his defence which has not conceded a goal in four previous ties, Queen's Park Rangers' Terry Fenwick replacing injured Southampton central defender Mark Wright.

Against that, however, he will welcome back AC Milan striker Mark Hateley, who was missing from the side which was held to a 1-1 draw in Romania earlier this month, the only point England have dropped to date.

Finnish manager Martti Kuusela is in a far worse position and will definitely be without experienced striker Ari Valvee. Defenders Eero Pekonen and Ari Lahtinen are also receiving treatment for injuries but Kuusela will be forced to field both men.

If Pekonen and Lahtinen are both short of full fitness, the Finnish defence will struggle to contain England's "Italian strike force" of Hateley and Sampdoria's Trevor Francis.

Though the tie comes at the end of a long, hard season for most of the English players, Everton midfielder Trevor Steven will be playing his 63rd game, England look to have too much all round quality for the Finns.

30 policemen beaten in Chinese soccer violence

PEKING (R) — At least 30 policemen were beaten and four seriously injured during Sunday's soccer violence in Peking, condemned by a city leader as a barbaric act, China Daily said Tuesday.

A spokesman for Peking's Public Security Bureau said police detained 127 fans after the riot in which 11 buses, five taxis and the cars of several foreigners were damaged and windows smashed.

Residents said police were still arresting fans Monday night after interrogating those already detained. The violence was sparked by China's 2-1 defeat by Hong Kong eliminated them from the World Cup.

The official New China News Agency (NCNA) said local people were demanding severe punishment for the rioters. The public trial of three fans accused of beating a taxi driver is expected in a week's time.

Communist Party and city government leaders held emergency talks Monday on the riot, described by city officials as the worst sports violence in Peking in three decades.

Screaming fans left a sea of glass on the streets outside Peking's Workers Stadium as they surrounded buses and foreigners' cars, smashing windows with a hail of bricks and bottles.

"The incident was a barbaric act and it must be condemned by all the residents in Peking," said vice-mayor Zhang Baifa.

"The riot smeared the image of Peking as well as our country. Those who took part in the riot must be severely punished," he told Chinese reporters.

China Daily said trouble first broke out inside the stadium where 31 fans were arrested as police moved in. Windows of the Chinese team's locker room were broken.

Olsen joins Denmark against Soviets

COPENHAGEN (R) — Midfielder Jesper Olsen, who helped Manchester United to victory over Everton in the English F.A. Cup final on Saturday, was named Tuesday in Denmark's squad for the World Cup qualifier against the Soviet Union on June 5.

But another midfielder, Allan Simonsen, who returned for the May 8 friendly with East Germany after breaking his leg during the European championship finals last June, is doubtful.

Trainer Sepp Piontek said he would not decide the last two places in the 16-strong squad until next week.



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Cinema OPERA

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BONBER

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12:00, 2:30, 4:30, 9:00
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Cinema PALESTINE

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(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 22198

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(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

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السلامة العامة

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.2765/75	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3678/88	Canadian dollars
	3.0515/35	West German marks
	3.4465/95	Dutch guilders
	2.5680/5710	Swiss francs
	61.35/40	Belgian francs
	9.3020/70	French francs
	1949.0/51.0	Italian lire
	250.05/20	Japanese yen
	8.8525/8625	Swedish crowns
	8.7940/8040	Norwegian crowns
	10.9550/9650	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	315.80/316.30	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities drifted off the early highs but the undertone remains firm, dealers said. Trading turned dull after an initial flurry of activity in response to the record gains on Wall Street overnight.

The F.T. 30 index at 1400 GMT was up 3.5 points at 1019.5 and the FTSE 100 index at 1430 GMT was 2.9 points higher at 1333.7.

Debenhams was up 4p at 329, adding to Monday's 18p rise, on continued bid speculation, while W.H. Smith rose 8p to 248. Government bonds were mixed with short dates down about 3/16 point but long dates up 1/16 point. News U.S. first quarter real GNP was revised to 0.7 per cent from 1.3 had little overall impact.

The U.K. government later said it is issuing £400 million in tranches of existing bonds consisting, £150 million of the 10 per cent treasury 1992 and £250 million of the 10 1/2 per cent exchequer 2005.

Kank Hovis McDougall, which announced interim profits above most expectations, was up 3p at 168 after 173. J. Sainsbury was off 2p at 342 following its annual figures, while in other food retailers, Dee Corp was 8p higher at 250 on speculative demand.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning brings a considerable amount of confusion where your home or family are concerned. Know the exact situation before you become involved in any discussions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Find out what others expect of you at home, and they try to please them. Take no risks where your reputation is concerned.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be more direct in correspondence since ambiguity could cause you trouble later. Don't waste time foolishly.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Avoid activities that yield nothing but loss and concentrate on the proven and constructive kind. Do something kind for your mate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Go after that personal wish in the right way in the morning, and you can get it. Avoid problems with good friends.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be sure to study every phase of a problem before you try to solve it. One you love may complain; so be understanding.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You may feel confused in the morning, so be sure what it is you really want before going after it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Do not give a higher-up an argument in the morning, and then everything works out smoothly for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) The morning is not good for making any changes or you could later get into serious trouble. Use your good judgment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't argue over some account in the morning, but get busy and study it carefully for possible error.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be more considerate of partners who are moody at this time and all goes well. Be careful in motion of any kind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study every phase of your job, and then you can handle it wisely and please higher-ups.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Some delay may arise where entertainment is concerned. Show devotion to your mate even though he or she is demanding.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will understand the importance of home and family or whatever else is fundamental in its nature, so add courses to the curriculum that will make your progeny more expert in this. One who will do well in the field of merchandising. Make sure that the diet is right.

Pakistan plans major price, taxation reforms

ISLAMABAD (R) — Major price and taxation reforms will be among the aims of Pakistan's future economic policy, the government said Tuesday.

The government's economic survey for the financial year ending on June 30 did not give details of the plans, which it said would be aimed at promoting domestic savings, encouraging exports and investment, raising agricultural production and generating employment.

The document was issued two days before the new civilian administration of Prime Minister Mohammad Junejo is due to present the national budget to the national assembly.

"The task of the future policy is to bring about a major reform of prices, subsidies, taxation and incentives ...," finance ministry economic adviser Mr. Arshad Zaman said in the report.

Finance Minister Mahbubul Haq said last month the gov-

ernment was planning to liberalise its overly regulated economy, sell some nationalised industries, boost revenues through tax reforms and increase charges for public services.

Mr. Zaman's report said Mr. Junejo's government, formed following elections last February, stood "the best chance of taking responsible decisions, leading to equitable burden-sharing throughout the society."

He said provisional estimates put the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate during the year at 8.4 per cent compared with only 3.5 per cent in the previous year. The Gross National Product (GNP) grew by 7.3 per cent from three per cent in the previous year.

Mr. Zaman said a strain on balance of payments which emerged last year was further compounded this year by a decline in merchandise exports and workers' remittances from abroad.

Banks oversubscribe Euroloan to Jordan

The government's £200 million Euroloan has been oversubscribed by \$80 million at the underwriting stage.

Fourteen banks have joined the lead management group, each underwriting \$20 million.

Discussions are now being held with the borrower about increasing the amount of the loan, says lead manager Arab Bank.

Other banks in the lead management group are: Alahli Bank of Kuwait, Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), The Arab Investment Company (TAIC), Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait, Banque Nationale de Paris, Banque Paribas, Bursan Bank, Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Credit Lyonnais, Gulf International Bank, Manufacturers Hanover Trust Com-

pany, National Bank of Bahrain and Union de Banques Arabes & Francaises.

Jordan may be persuaded to increase the Euroloan to make up for the shortfall in the 1984 loan, which raised only \$150 million, instead of the planned \$200.8 million. This occurred because the Kuwaiti authorities blocked the KD 15 million (\$50.8 million) tranche arranged by the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK).

The move was taken by Kuwait to prevent currency flowing out of the country and creating a large pool of offshore dinars.

Arab Bank, which lead managed the dollar portion of the 1984 loan, says the loan was not increased to compensate for the loss of the dollar tranche (MEED).

Britain registers £3b trade surplus with Arabs

LONDON — Britain enjoyed a £3 billion trade surplus with Arab countries last year, U.K. Department of Trade statistics show.

British exports to the Arab World totalled £4.87 billion, while imports from the region were £1.76 billion.

The export figure was 7.4 per cent down on the 1983 total, reflecting the recession in Arab oil states, stemming from the world oil glut and its attendant price falls. However, Britain's imports from the region — mainly oil — fell by 15.7 per cent.

These changes combined to produce a British trade surplus which was only 2 per cent down on the 1983 figure of £3.1 billion.

Saudi Arabia retained its role as by far the most important Arab export market for Britain, accounting for 28 per cent of British exports last year.

In second place was the United Arab Emirates, which took 11 per cent of U.K. exports.

Saudi Arabia was also the big-

gest source of U.K. imports from the region, accounting for 29 per cent of the total. In second place was Algeria, with 15.5 per cent of Britain's imports from the Arab World.

Department of Trade officials are generally encouraged by the figures, noting that British exports to the recession-hit region held up much better than those of some major competitors last year. There is, however, some doubt about the prospects for this year.

Mr. Sinclair Road, Director of the Committee On Middle East Trade (COMET), a Department of Trade-sponsored body dedicated to expanding British exports to the region, warned: "It remains to be seen whether the supply business will continue to hold up, because there's bound to be some feedback of retrenchment policies into the economy as a whole."

Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) Bulletin.

U.S., Soviet Union agree to lift some obstacles to trade

MOSCOW (R) — The United States and the Soviet Union agreed Tuesday to lift some obstacles blocking better trade between them, U.S. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said.

After two days of talks with Foreign Trade Minister Nikolai Patolichev and a meeting with Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr. Baldrige summarised the accord at a news conference and said he believed trade between the two superpowers was set to increase.

"Patolichev and I agreed that there were trade obstacles that could be removed now," he said. The result should be improved access to national markets for firms and trading organisations

from the other country.

However, a radical change in the trading picture would depend on improvement in other aspects of U.S.-Soviet relations.

Under the terms of the accord, Soviet state trading organisations will be told that Moscow wants to increase trade with the United States and that no discrimination should be applied against U.S. firms, Mr. Baldrige said. He said the Soviets denied any discrimination took place.

The United States undertakes

to "attempt to see" that Soviet firms are not discriminated against and the U.S. administration would present legislation to Congress to eliminate a 34-year-old ban on Soviet fur imports, he said.

The two sides also agreed to start discussions this year on a shipping agreement and to set up committees to facilitate trade promotion and deal with practical problems.

Trade between the two countries has fallen back in recent years following the collapse of détente and U.S. embargoes on technology and other exports to Moscow.

"We accomplished the objective we had set, which was to re-establish a mechanism for dealing with and resolving commercial and economic problems after a seven-year hiatus," Mr. Baldrige said.

He said the Moscow talks, the first at ministerial-level on trade since 1978, had not dealt with underlying U.S. policy towards trade with the Soviet Union, which was attacked by Mr. Gorbachev in his meeting Monday.

Mr. Gorbachev accused the United States of trying to use trade as a political lever. Soviet objections centre on a link made by Washington in the 1970s between trade terms and the emigration of Soviet Jews and on U.S. restrictions on technology exports.

Mr. Baldrige said he noted that since a lower-level meeting in January, Soviet firms had signed contracts worth over \$40 million with American firms. U.S. exports to the Soviet Union, largely grain, totalled \$3.3 billion last year compared with some \$350 million of Soviet purchases of U.S. goods.

U.S. economic growth slows sharply

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of only 0.7 per cent in the first quarter of 1985, the slowest since the end of recession in 1982 and a far slower pace than previously estimated, the government said Tuesday.

It was the poorest performance by the world's major economy since the fourth quarter of 1982 when it rose only 0.5 per cent.

Data published last month by the Commerce Department estimated that Gross National Product (GNP), the broadest measure of economic activity, rose at an annual rate of 1.3 per cent after adjustment for inflation between January and March.

Tuesday's Commerce Department report followed last Friday's announcement by the U.S. central bank that it was cutting its key discount lending rate from eight per cent to 7.5 per cent in a bid to stimulate the economy.

These latest figures highlight a dramatic slowdown in the United States over the first three months of 1985.

An earlier "flash" estimate released by the Commerce Department based on very preliminary

data had shown growth in the first quarter of 1985 running at a 2.1 per cent annual rate.

In the fourth quarter of 1984 the economy grew at an annual rate of 4.3 per cent.

Over 1984 as a whole, the U.S. enjoyed a growth rate of 6.8 per cent, the fastest rate of expansion for over 30 years.

Tuesday's downward revision in the Commerce Department figures was widely anticipated. It reflected new data showing higher imports, lower government spending, and lower business inventories than first estimated.

Although consumers spent more freely than previously reported, imports satisfied a greater sharp of the demand than earlier believed, the department said.

The GNP figures, as well as other data showing continued weakness in the economy's industrial sector, have raised concern that the two-year-old U.S. expansion may be ending.

Separately, the Labour Department reported Tuesday that inflation remained under control, with consumer prices rising just 0.4 per cent in April.

The department's consumer

price report showed prices rose in the United States at a 4.2 per cent annual rate during the first four months of 1985.

These relatively low inflation figures are one reason some analysts think the economy can bounce back from the first quarter. But a group of business economists said Monday they expect a mild recession in 1986.

The Commerce Department's GNP-based inflation measure showed prices rising at a 5.6 per cent rate in the first quarter of this year, but analysts say that measure has been distorted by special once-only factors.

In New York the dollar firmed to around 3.0570 German marks after opening at 3.0520, with some currency dealers saying the Commerce Department announcement almost came as a "pleasant surprise."

They explained that some traders, faced with predictions of flat growth or possible contraction in the economy in the first three months of 1985, had sold dollars previously and had now bought them back again.

Meanwhile, after scaling new peaks Monday, Wall Street de-

lers predicted the stock market would shake off any attempts at profit-taking Tuesday and reach even dizzier heights in the near future.

Boosted by lower interest rates, the widely watched Dow Jones industrial average spurred by 19.54 points Monday to a record 1,304.88 — The first time it has ever closed above 1,300.

"The consensus is that we're going to look for a move on up for a while," said Mr. Robert Colby, an analyst with Smith Barney, Harris Upham and Co.

"The odds favour another change in the discount rate within a month, maybe within two weeks," said Mr. Ed Sawicz of Discount Corp. of New York.

Analyst Mr. John Connolly of Dean Witter Reynolds foresaw a run at the 1,400 level in coming months, while Mr. Thom Brown of Butcher and Singer in Philadelphia was even more optimistic.

Mr. Brown said that if Democrats and Republicans could agree on a budget-cutting plan "there is a possibility we'll see 1,500 by the end of the year."

Moscow backs new role for UNIDO

VIENNA (R) — The Soviet Union has agreed to back a move by Third World countries to boost the role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) as a channel of industrial development, a Soviet U.N. official said Tuesday.

Mr. Anatoly Shatukhov, counsellor to the Soviet mission to U.N. organisations in Vienna, told Reuters Moscow's formal approval of the conversion of UNIDO into a specialised agency funded directly by its members had been sent to the U.N. in New York.

Moscow's approval of the initiative paves the way for independent decision-making by UNIDO, a U.N. body designed to help bridge the North-South gap

between advanced and developing nations through transfers of technology and industrial know-how.

Western delegates attending a meeting of the 45-nation Industrial Development Board (IDB), UNIDO's policy-making body, said they hoped a UNIDO general conference could now take place this year to finalise the transformation.

The Third World has been calling impatiently for several years for direct funding of UNIDO to allow the body to decide independently of the U.N. General Assembly on the allocation of its budget and its strategy for industrial development.

The Soviet go-ahead followed months of doubt while Moscow

reviewed its position after upheavals in other U.N. bodies, notably the U.S. withdrawal last December from the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

East blocks states originally supported the conversion of UNIDO and several ratified the new constitution.

But Soviet ambassador Mr. Oleg Khlestov later said Moscow was reassessing its stand in "the light of recent events", a remark viewed as referring to Washington's UNESCO pullout.

There had been speculation that the United States might also leave UNIDO, but Washington last month pledged its commitment to

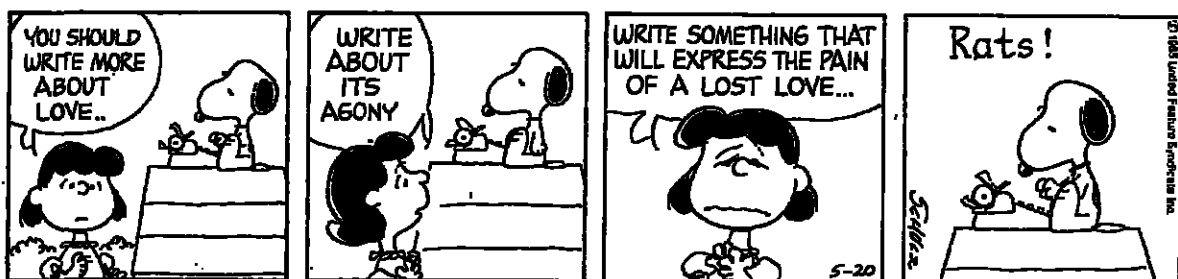
the conversion and said it believed an independent UNIDO would be more responsive to member states and more effective.

The new UNIDO constitution has so far been ratified by more than 120 states, 94 of them developing nations.

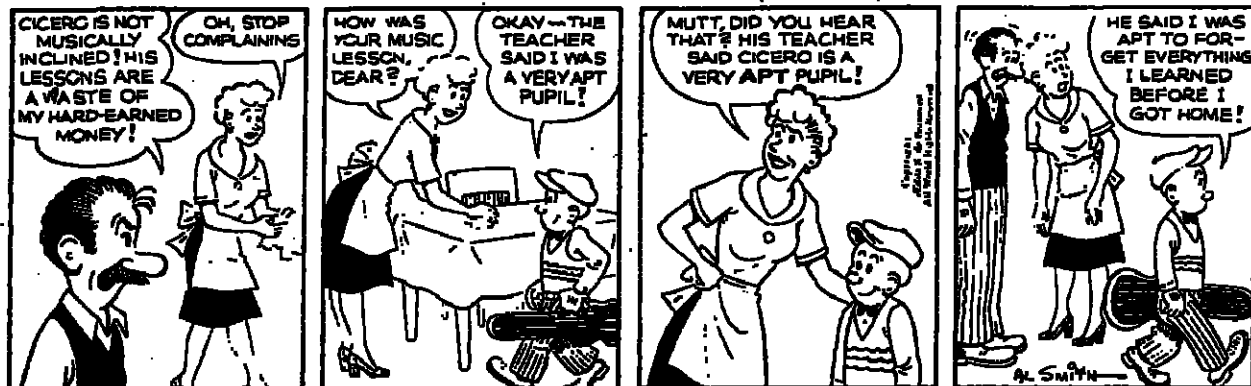
Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and East Germany, following Moscow's lead, have now pledged to ratify the constitution in the near future.

Asked Tuesday why Moscow had given its approval after months of delay, Mr. Shatukhov said: "We can not swim against the stream." He said he hoped the new UNIDO would become more efficient.

Peanuts



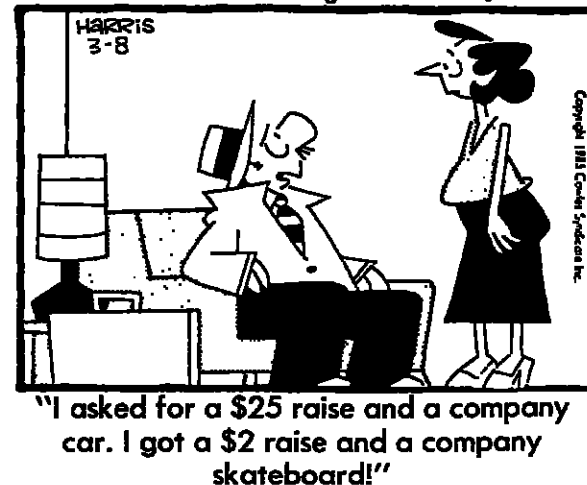
Mutt 'n' Jeff



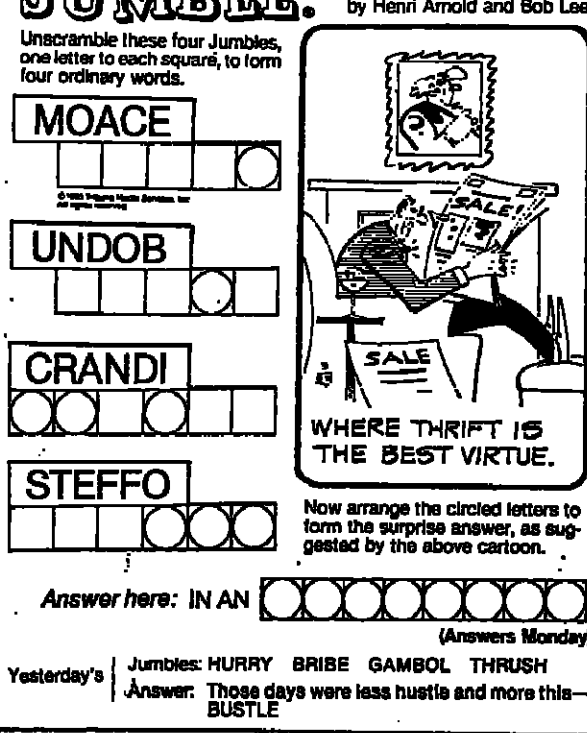
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



THE Daily Crossword by Wilson McBeath

ACROSS

- Minor prophet
- US naval historian
- Record
- Genitive
- Convex molding
- Navigator
- Tenmen
- Kismet
- Br. assessment amount
- Latin and German
- First part of quotation from Cicero
- City to Piere
- Ther city
- Lucky number
- Rags-to-riches author
- Before
- Family member
- Sports
- Reaching stream
- Labor job action
- Concerning
- Whitewash
- Papal name
- Extreme
- Approaches
- Not on schedule
- City on the Rhine
- Second part of quotation
- Historic item
- Hawaiian island
- Privy to
- Idem
- Sharp ridge
- Beacon
- Third part of quotation
- Matched
- End of quotation

DOWN

- Sandy's sound
- Main part
- Proficiency
- Magician's place of concentration
- Edible fungus
- Use
- Embarrassing situation
- Young or King
- confidante
- Custom-made
- Biblical patriarch
- Severity
- Otherwise
- Laundry cycle
- Casualty of arms
- Strife
- God of love
- Upright abbr.
- majesty
- Swelling
- MIT word: abbr.
- End of gang or spin
- Negro
- Pitcher
- Biblical patriarch
- Truckdrivers
- Deceive
- Advisory group
- Connected
- Mischievous
- Water vessel
- In India
- Scoutpost
- Type style
- Mixed suddenly
- Spar
- Amused
- Zhang's love
- Biblical proposition
- Sold
- Convidian Look

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

SECRET ALLIES FURNACE
 PITCHER BATHING
 PANDORA'S BOX
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 TRAITOR ASSASSIN
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 COMBINATION
 THRO BERTIE GUON
 INNOVATIVE SPEAKS
 MESSING SELEGTIE
 ADAGE MENAGERIE
 PONES ABIT AUBA
 TRYSTIT TREY BIEIT

Ortega returns from European tour with little material support

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — President Daniel Ortega returned from his tour of 13 European nations with political support for the Sandinista government here, but not as much economic aid as he might have hoped to offset the effects of the recently declared U.S. trade embargo.

On his return here Monday, however, Mr. Ortega said the trip was worthwhile alone for the promise from the Soviet Union of badly needed petroleum.

Although Mr. Ortega started his trip on April 26, days before President Reagan announced the embargo, the Sandinista leader had said from the outset that the U.S. government was planning "new, aggressive economic actions against Nicaragua" and because of that he was seeking economic aid.

Mr. Ortega was initially scheduled to visit only the Soviet Union and Western European nations. He later extended his itinerary to Western Europe to counteract reaction that the trip showed a further alignment of Nicaragua with the Soviet Bloc.

He started out in the Soviet Union, proceeded to Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and Romania, and concluded the tour with stops in Spain, France, Italy,

Finland and Sweden. Mr. Ortega also stopped in Cuba.

Mr. Reagan has been repeatedly rebuffed in attempts to restore covert military aid to the Contras.

Mr. Ortega received expressions of support in virtually every country visited. Vice-President Sergio Ramirez told reporters here on May 14 that "President Ortega's tour has been a great political success, while on the economic side, it also has been good."

On his return home, Mr. Ortega said the Soviet Union had promised to provide between 80 per cent and 90 per cent of the petroleum that Nicaragua will need for the remainder of the year. He said the trip to Moscow was positive as a result.

Government sources had said Mr. Ortega went to Moscow in hopes of getting \$200 million in cash. Nicaragua needs 15,000 barrels of oil each day, and the amount provided by the Soviet Union

would be close to the \$200 million figure in value.

Asked for the total amount of aid and donations he had turned up on the tour, Mr. Ortega would reply only: "This is not the right time to inform about the total amount."

A Western diplomat said the trip produced little economic benefit for the hard-pressed Nicaraguan government in the form of cash.

"Socialist countries are little inclined to provide economic aid in cash. So far, we don't know if they have signed any new cooperation agreements, but it is almost certain that if one is signed, it will be for technical aid and equipment," the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity for protocol reasons.

Communist leaders in the Soviet Union and its Eastern European allies condemned the U.S. trade embargo, announced May 1, and said their support for Nicaragua would continue.

In Western Europe, Mr. Ortega's biggest gain came, at the economic summit of industrialized nations, held in Bonn, West Germany in early May, when leaders of West Germany, France, Italy and Britain refused to join the embargo.

Military court hurries to end Pakistan plot trial

ISLAMABAD (R) — One of Pakistan's most sensitive secret trials, an alleged officers' plot to kidnap President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq and seize power, is being hurried to a close before martial law is officially lifted, according to sources close to the case.

The hearing in Attok Fort is one of five secret military trials conducted over the past year and the only one to accuse serving officers of plotting against Gen. Zia. Three others resulted in one hanging and 62 life sentences and a fifth trial involving several dozen civilians is still in progress.

Gen. Zia, who seized power in 1977, has pledged to lift martial law this year. If the trials are not finished they will then have to be handed over to open civilian courts.

The sources, who asked not to be named, said the cases against 14 army and air force officers, two policemen and a left-wing lawyer would not stand up in a civilian court as they were based on confessions extracted under torture.

According to statements smuggled out of Attok Fort, about halfway between Rawalpindi and Peshawar, the defendants were forced to lie naked on blocks of ice, undergo electric shock treatment and had chili peppers inserted in the anus until they confessed.

The confessions named several generals as knowing about the conspiracy but no charges have been brought against them, the sources said. Most are now retired.

The government declines comment on the secret trials. Gen. Zia has denied there was a conspiracy, telling journalists the officers were arrested for smuggling.

Twelve of the 17 accused are army majors, one a lieutenant-colonel, and one an air force squadron leader. The others are two police officers and Raza Kazim, a well-known lawyer.

Jaffna residents protest against army

COLOMBO (R) — Shops in Jaffna closed and many people stayed off work Tuesday following a call by students for a strike against army harassment of civilians, residents said.

Most buses stopped running and about 200 people also observed a fast in two Hindu temples in the northern town in response to the strike call, they said.

The protests followed reports by residents that about 60 civilians, mostly Tamils, were missing and feared dead following a sweep through the eastern areas of the country at the weekend by commandos.

Military and civilian authorities have denied the reports, but a prominent community leader in the eastern province Tuesday told Reuters the authorities there had begun investigating them.

Police said Tuesday that Tamil guerrillas fighting for a separatist state damaged several buildings when they set off explosions Monday night at a former open-air prison in Jaffna.

Two Special Task Force commandos were killed Monday when guerrillas set off a landmine under their jeep in the eastern province, police said.

They said the blast occurred when the commandos were patrolling the area after guerrillas had earlier killed two policemen in an attack on a police guard at a bridge at Manampitaya.

The residents' reports of the commando sweep followed the killing of about 150 mostly Sinhalese civilians, by guerrillas at the sacred Buddhist city of Anuradhapura last Tuesday.



KING DEPARTS: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday reviews with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak a guard of honour in front of the Qasr Al Qubbah before the King's departure for London en route to the U.S. (Petra photo)

Qasr Al Qubbah before the King's departure for London en route to the U.S. (Petra photo)

Hong Kong pact to take effect May 27

PEKING (AP) — The agreement under which the British colony of Hong Kong will be handed back to China in 1997 will take effect on May 27 when ratification documents are exchanged in Peking, China announced.

On the same day, a Sino-British joint liaison group will be established to supervise the transition, the Foreign Ministry announced Tuesday.

A similar announcement was released by the British embassy in Peking.

A joint declaration on the future of Hong Kong was signed in Peking last Dec. 19 by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang, following two years of negotiations.

The agreement said the freeport off China's south coast, British since 1841, will revert to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997, when Britain's 99-year lease on the new territories — most of the colony's land mass — expires.

China pledged to retain Hong Kong's freedoms and Capitalist system for 50 years after the takeover.

The pact was approved by the Chinese National People's Congress on April 4 after it passed the British Parliament.

The accord called for the establishment of a joint liaison group with five members from each country, with both sides led by a senior representative of ambassadorial rank.

China announced that its team will be headed by Ke Zaishuo, assisted by Zheng Weirong.

Mr. Ke is director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Foreign Ministry and headed the working group that hammered

out the "one country, two systems" agreement with Britain.

Mr. Zheng is a department chief in the Hong Kong and Macao Office of the State Council.

David Wilson, head of the British working group in the talks, to lead its liaison group team, assisted by Eric Ho, John Boyd, Anthony Galsworthy and Peter Thomson.

The Chinese have objected to Mr. Ho, secretary for trade and industry in the Crown Colony, because they did not want a Hong Kong Chinese on the liaison group.

But a compromise was reportedly reached last week when Mr. Ho was granted full British citizenship.

Mr. Boyd is political adviser to the Hong Kong government, Mr. Galsworthy is former No. 2 at the British embassy in Peking.

S. Africa reportedly tested A-bomb

WASHINGTON (R) — An anti-apartheid group said Tuesday it had obtained official U.S. papers indicating South Africa had tested a nuclear bomb in the South Atlantic.

The Washington Office on Africa (WOA), a church and trade union-sponsored organization opposed to South Africa's apartheid racial policies, said hitherto-unpublished U.S. Naval

Research Laboratory (NRL) documents appeared to confirm reports that a bomb was exploded in 1979.

It said the papers, obtained under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, detailed evidence of an ionospheric disturbance and high levels of radioactivity in Australian sheep about that time.

A U.S. satellite detected a mysterious flash off the coast of South

Africa on Sept. 22, 1979. Speculation has since persisted that South Africa had tested a bomb, but Pretoria denied it and there has been no independent verification.

A Defence Department spokesman told Reuters Tuesday he knew of no reason to change an official 1980 U.S. verdict that the case for a bomb test had not been proved.

Retired American officer charged with spying

WASHINGTON (R) — A retired U.S. Navy communications specialist, who had top-secret security clearance, has been charged with spying for attempting to pass classified national defence documents to the Soviet Union.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said its agents Monday arrested John Anthony Walker, 47, who retired from the Navy in 1976 as a chief warrant officer.

Walker, who now operates a private detective agency in Norfolk, Virginia, was charged with unsuccessfully trying to give the Soviet Union 129 classified naval documents, including material from the USS Nimitz, a nuclear powered U.S. aircraft carrier, the FBI said.

It said a package containing the classified data was seized after Walker allegedly left it in a wooded area near Washington on Sunday. FBI agents saw a Soviet embassy official in the same area, it added.

Among the recovered documents was sensitive material on the deployment of Soviet vessels in the Mediterranean sea and the movement of Soviet merchant marine vessels, the FBI said.

An FBI affidavit filed in U.S. court in Baltimore, Maryland, said it appeared Walker obtained documents from his son, Michael Lance Walker, a sailor on the Nimitz.

An investigation into the son's role in the alleged spy scheme was continuing, the FBI said. Conviction on espionage charges carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

FBI and navy investigators were still attempting to assess the extent of damage to the national security from the material Walker had already given to the Soviet Union.

The FBI said that among the recovered documents was a letter that stated: "This delivery consists of material from 'S' and is similar to the previously supplied material. The quantity is limited, unfortunately, due to his operating schedule and the increased security prior to deployment."

An FBI spokesman could not give an immediate explanation as to why Walker spied for the Soviet Union or if he was paid.

The FBI has recently given top priority to increasing its counterintelligence force in crackdowns against what it calls a growing Soviet Bloc spy threat in the U.S.

Brush fires flare anew in Florida countryside

MIAMI (R) — Brush fires raged across the Florida countryside with renewed strength as thunderstorms that firefighters had hoped would help extinguish the flames drifted out to sea.

Hours after the worst fires in the state's history had been reported under control in devastated north east Florida, flames were again leaping across valuable timberland and endangering Atlantic coastal communities.

A 15-kilometre wide blaze continued to threaten up to 300 woodland homes a few kilometres west of Daytona Beach, an Atlantic resort city in central Florida.

"These fires have plenty of fuel left to burn, and we're just running out of ways to contain them within their present boundaries," said Larry Amsion, state fire prevention coordinator.

He said Monday's heavy rains had aided firefighting efforts in many areas but had been far too little to extinguish all the giant blazes scattered across Florida.

The fires have killed two firefighters, forced the evacuation of thousands of residents, incinerated about 200 homes and severely damaged 400 others.

Brush fires continued to spread across hundreds of acres Monday in south west Florida.

Police and health officials evacuated 108 patients from a mental hospital near Fort Myers as flames licked at the institution's borders.

Despite these hot spots, firefighters and National Guard troops have contained most of more than 60 major fires that devoured 150,000 acres (about 61,000 hectares) of Florida countryside over the past four days.

The wind-whipped blazes scorched vast stretches of swamp brush and timberland from the Georgia border south 560 kilometres to the everglades.

Loss of property could top \$100 million and ecologists say damage to the state's delicate ecosystem could take years to heal.

In palm coast, on the north east coast, residents trickling back to their homes found only charred rubble and blackened concrete slabs. Fires had gutted about 150 homes and forced the evacuation of more than 2,000 people.

"What can I say? I've lost everything," said Edward Bowman, 43, looking at his ruined home. Where a garage once stood, he found the scorched remains of his Mercedes.

Gorbachev may not attend U.N. session, Post says

WASHINGTON (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is unlikely to attend a United Nations session in New York this year, desiring hopes of a first meeting with President Reagan, the Washington Post said Tuesday.

Quoting an unidentified White House official, it said Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko indicated to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Vienna last week that Mr. Gorbachev was unlikely to go to the U.N. General Assembly in September or October.

The Post said Mr. Shultz and National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane told Mr. Reagan they had concluded that Mr. Gorbachev was too involved with domestic issues to consider a summit with Mr. Reagan this year.

Mr. Reagan, who held no meetings with the top Soviet leaders during his first four-year term, has invited Mr. Gorbachev to visit Washington but administration officials have said that no formal Soviet response has yet been received.

The White House had no immediate comment on the report.

7 shot in New York Chinatown street

NEW YORK (R) — Seven people, including a four-year-old boy, were shot on a Chinatown street packed with hundreds of people in what police said was a new outbreak of gang violence in the district.

Two of the seven are in critical condition Monday night at New York hospitals. They include the child who was shot in the head.

Police said the shooting on a crowded Chinatown street in Lower Manhattan took place in front of hundreds of people.

COLUMN

Yugoslav film gets top prize

CANNES, France (R) — This year's lacklustre Cannes Film Festival came to life in its closing hours with the award of its top prize, the Golden Palm, to the Yugoslav film *When Father Was Away On Business*. The verdict was so unexpected that the 30-year-old director, Emir Kusturica, was not even present to receive the award from veteran Hollywood star James Stewart at the ceremony ending the 12-day festival. It was the first time Yugoslavia had won the award in the festival's 38-year history. The U.S. film "Birdy", directed by Britain's Alan Parker, won the jury's special prize for originality. Unlike other years, Kusturica's award by the 10-member jury chaired by Oscar-winning director Milos Forman prompted no catcalls from the 3,000 people at the festival finale.

Judge jailed for attempted rape

PEKING (AP) — A rural Chinese judge responsible for enforcing an anti-crime campaign has been jailed for attempted rape, assault and possessing a dagger and loaded pistol, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Workers Daily said Zhuan Sunxian, intermediate People's court president in Suxian prefecture, Anhui province, received a five-year prison term "to the delight of the local people."

It did not explain when Zhuan was arrested but denounced him for "committing crimes instead of enforcing the law during the nationwide campaign to crack down on criminal activities."

The Communist Party proclaimed a crackdown on lawlessness in April 1983 and gave courts and police expanded powers to jail suspected offenders and impose strict punishments.

Spanish shopkeepers protest against move to end siesta

MADRID (R) — Major trade unions have called for shopkeepers and assistants to strike in protest against moves to end a sacred Spanish institution — the siesta. The country's Socialist government, hoping to stimulate consumer spending, passed a law last week allowing retail shops to remain open in the middle of the day.

Spanish shops, with the exception of department stores and supermarkets, have since time immemorial closed their doors to customers between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m. for what the Spanish Royal Academy defines as "the time for sleeping or resting after eating."

Small shops were required to open for three hours in the morning and three in the afternoon but had to obtain permission to stay open during the lunch break. Consumers had to set aside their after-work hours for shopping as most shops remained open until eight in the evening.

John Travolta joins Scientology protest

PORTLAND, Oregon (R) — Film star John Travolta and jazz musician Chick Corea have joined an estimated 1,000 members of the Church of Scientology protesting at a \$39 million court judgment against the church.

Travolta flew his private jet here from Los Angeles, held a 10-minute press conference, then left about two hours later. "It's simple — I've been a scientologist for 10 years now," said Travolta, looking tired and in need of a shave. "I received counseling and I give counseling, and I just feel it's time to stand up for what one believes."

Woman to give birth to septuplets

ORANGE, California (R) — A 30-year-old California teacher in her 29th week of pregnancy is scheduled to give birth to seven babies by Caesarian Section, a hospital spokeswoman has said. A team of more than 30 doctors and nurses was standing by for the operation, which could produce the world's first septuplets to survive, spokeswoman Debra Conkey of St. Joseph Hospital told Reuters in a telephone interview.

Patricia Frustaci, a high school English teacher who has been confined to the hospital since March 25, was reported in stable condition. "The doctors think it's a good time to take the babies," Conkey said. "If she had them any earlier the chances of all of them surviving would be very slim."

The average term for an uncomplicated pregnancy is 40 weeks.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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CONTROL YOURSELF!

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A 9 7 6
♥ Void
♦ A K 6 4
♣ A K J 10 8

WEST EAST
♠ K 10 8 3 ♠ J 5 2
♥ Q J 9 6 ♥ A 10 7 5 3 2
♦ Q 10 5 2 ♦ 3
♣ 4 ♣ 9 7 6

SOUTH
♠ K 4
♥ Q 8 4
♦ J 9 8 7
♣ Q 5 3 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♠.

There is a constant battle between declarer and the defenders for control of the hand. For declarer to relinquish control voluntarily can be foolhardy.

If our partner made a voluntary response in diamonds and then gave us a preference in clubs, wild horses could not have kept us out of slam with the North hand. However, North might have had good reason for his caution — even five diamonds proved to be more than South could

manage! West led his singleton club and declarer won in dummy. He cashed two top trumps, and was disappointed when East showed out. Unfortunately, the horse had already left the barn. Try as he might, declarer could come to no more than 10 tricks. There are many variations to the play — try them if you like. For example, if declarer plays on clubs, West ruffs and draws a trump.

Had declarer been in six diamonds, his line of play would have been eminently correct — indeed, six diamonds depends on no more than a 3-2 trump break. At five diamonds, however, declarer should protect against the possibility of a 4-1 trump split.

After winning the club lead, declarer can keep control of the hand by drawing just one round of trumps. Next, he cashes the king-ace of spades and ruffs a spade. It does not matter if he gets overruffed, but as the cards lie both defenders follow. Now declarer crosses back to the other high trump and ruffs the board's last spade. Since he knows trumps are 4-1, he simply starts running clubs and the defenders have to be satisfied with two trump tricks, nothing more.

Radio Marti assured of bigger audience after Cuban protests

HAVANA (R) — U.S.-based Radio Marti seemed certain to capture a much larger audience during its second day of broadcasts after protests from the Cuban government thrust the station into the limelight.

The U.S. authorities' sudden decision to start transmissions to Cuba Monday from the anti-Communist station in Florida meant few Cubans had a chance to tune in.

But news of Cuba's retaliatory suspension of a freshly-signed immigration treaty with the United States and its stopping of flights by Cuban exiles dominated the official media and thrust Radio Marti into the public eye.

"Of course many Cubans will listen to Radio Marti over the next few days but it is overshadowed by our government's just response," said a Cuban teacher.

The Reagan administration established Radio Marti to bring what it called the truth to people now living under President Fidel Castro's Communist government.

The station's first broadcasts of news, music and political comment were heard clearly throughout the capital.

A street poll in Havana suggested that Radio Marti — named after Jose Marti, poet and hero of Cuba's independence struggle against Spain — would find its audience hard to hold.

"Once the initial curiosity is over I don't think Radio Marti will have any special attraction particularly as it is taking over an old Voice of America wavelength," said Armando Oviedo, a warehouse worker.

More than 20,000 Cubans were due to leave this year for the United States under the immigration accord signed between the two countries last December after months of negotiations.

The Cuban authorities have signalled they are ready to start up a rival station to broadcast to the United States once they have gauged the content and impact of Radio Marti.

Improving U.S.-Cuban relations before Monday's clash and they say broadcasts by the new Radio Marti will continue as planned 14 hours a day, seven days a week.

Under the accord Cuba had begun taking back "undesirables" from the 1980 Mariel boatlift in exchange for resumed U.S. acceptance of Cuban immigrants.

The first immigrants, 11 political prisoners and 17 family members, arrived in Miami only moments before suspension of the accord that was to bring in up to 20,000 Cubans a year.

In announcing the suspension, the Cuban government said: "If the price we have to pay... (is) an end to any possibility of improvement in our relations with the United States, we will gladly pay it."

Mr. Castro has recently said he is interested in improving relations with the United States which have been in a state of cold war virtually since he came to power in 1959.

He said in an interview in the Washington Post in February that he was ready to build on the migration agreement to achieve such

an improvement.

Although the administration had never said the agreement would have a broader impact, Secretary of State George Shultz said early in the negotiations that Washington would be watching to see if better relations were possible.

But by the time Mr. Castro made his conciliatory comment in February, the administration had already decided there was no such foreseeable possibility.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes dismissed Mr. Castro's comments then as nothing but talk and said the administration wanted to see action, particularly an end to what he called Cuba's subversive activities in Latin America.

The United States has also demanded the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and elsewhere in Africa.

The administration began pressing Congress early in 1982 to approve the Radio Marti broadcasts despite protests from U.S. radio station operators that Mr. Castro might retaliate by jamming

commercial broadcasts in the United States.

Critics also said Cubans already could listen to regular commercial radio broadcasts from stations in the Miami area.

Congress approved the Radio Marti broadcasts last year and they were meant to begin in January. But technical problems and a shortage of trained staff delayed the start until early Monday.

The administration said from the beginning that Radio Marti would be a "home service", providing news and programmes Cubans could not hear on their government-controlled radio.

"It means telling the Cuban people what is happening in Cuba and elsewhere after years of propaganda and disinformation," State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said Monday.

U.S. officials said the purpose was not to incite Cubans against their government. But Mr. Kalb said: "We believe an informed people are better able to hold their government to account and thereby strengthen the cause of peace."